

Rest For A Weary Soul

John 4:1-15

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Weary soul

II. SCRIPTURE: John 4:1-15

A. 1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria.

1. Jesus is seeing success - enough that he delegates
2. Jesus is tired - another reason he delegates
 - a) Sidebar: If I or Christian can't help you with things, please don't be upset about one of the other elders reaching out to you - REJOICE! The fact that you have a plurality of people who want to serve you is a sign of Health; Growth; Maturing as a church family; God's blessing. (And what amazing men they are!)
3. Jesus "had" to pass through Samaria
 - a) Technically, geographically, he didn't. Samaria: the Samaritans were descendants of the remnant of Israelites who weren't deported under Assyria or Babylon and then intermarried w/ foreigners who were brought in. There was theological disagreement between "pure" Jews and these "half" Jews mainly b/c the Samaritans refused to worship in Jerusalem at the temple
 - (1) Think Jews vs. Palestinians today; occupied territories
 - b) The normal route for the Jews was up the east side of the Jordan River, crossing it twice. Why? To avoid the Samaritans!
 - c) In John's gospel, the word "Had" used here normally involves something being God's will or plan:
 - (1) John 3:7 - You "must" be born again
 - (2) John 3:14 - The Son "must" be lifted up
 - (3) John 3:30 - I "must" decrease, he "must" increase
 - (4) John 4:24, God "must" be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth
 - d) So Jesus went this way for a reason.

B. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

1. Note that Jesus is tired. He is weary.
 - a) Weary from being around people nonstop...
 - b) Weary from people's troubles...
 - c) Weary from the travel...

- d) Weary from the sun...
- 2. What do you do when you feel tired? Escape and get away and this was a perfect place to do it - only a weird goes to draw water (hard work) at the hottest part of the day.
- C. *7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)*
 - 1. Here we are introduced to the reason Jesus had to come here
 - 2. A woman... A Samaritan... when he is weary...
 - 3. When I am tired, I don't want to be bothered. In ministry, at home, in life
 - a) But we are often called to be wrung out for others
 - (1) At our least, God uses us most
 - b) We see this in Jesus' life and ministry
 - (1) Surely the cross seems like a "least" point!
 - 4. But Jesus isn't too weary because he has a source, a fountainhead, of energy that is different from this woman and from the disciples
 - 5. This isn't about getting a drink - he could have waited for his disciples. This is about something more
- D. *10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*
 - 1. If you knew the gift = the Holy Spirit (c.f. John 7:37-39)
 - 2. If you knew who = God, the promised Messiah
 - 3. Living water or flowing water (c.f. A river)
 - 4. Indeed he does mean a river - a river of life, of living water
 - a) Throughout the Bible, this is one of the images used to picture the life giving power of God as Breton said
 - b) Garden of Eden, Psalm 1, Ezekiel 47, Revelation
 - 5. It is from this fullness of the Spirit (without measure) that Jesus draws his energy, his zeal even when he is physically worn out
 - 6. It is from this fullness of the Spirit that Jesus "had" to come here
 - 7. Jesus lived a life prompted by the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit, and rested in the Holy Spirit
 - a) And so can you as a follower of Jesus!
- E. *11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."*
 - 1. Yes, I am aware of the history. Am I greater? Ha. Please.
- F. *13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal*

life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." - John 4:1-15

1. All the stuff we go to for satisfaction and rest won't satisfy. The thirst is never quenched outside of God (Matt 5:6)
2. When you drink of Jesus you "will never be thirsty forever" I love that. The possibility of any thirst later is emphatically denied
 - a) **That means if you aren't satisfied in Jesus today, he's not the problem - you're drinking from the wrong well!**
3. Artesian well pic
4. Language is of springs in the desert, welling up, water bursting forth - the Spirit of God falls upon people, bringing the dead to life in an instant!

III. DISCOVERY

A. About Mankind? **We get tired.**

1. Physically... Emotionally... Spiritually...
2. Tired from the work of the flesh

B. About God? **God alone provides the rest and sustaining power we need.**

1. God can and will fill you w/ an artesian well, where the head pressure of his Spirit is so infinitely higher than you, that it will overflow into life-giving, Spirit-empowered, restful obedience

IV. APPLICATION - How do I get this flowing water of the Spirit of God?

A. Find your rest in Jesus, not in XYZ.

1. Rest. Do you?
 - a) We work from a place of rest, out of overflow like an artesian well
2. But rest in Jesus, not in lesser things alone
3. There is nothing wrong with XYZ, but it won't satisfy (like regular water)
4. Think about what you do for rest. If Jesus isn't a factor in it, then it's not actually restful - it's just a stopgap.
5. What's the balance between enjoying things w/ Jesus vs. worshipping things (outdoors, vacations, wine, etc)?

B. Remain in Jesus' rest by dwelling in his presence.

1. George Mueller on staying abiding until he finds joy in Jesus

C. Spend time daily with God.

1. Look Back
 - a) Write down what you are thankful for and thank God for these things.
 - b) Write down what you are stressed about and ask God to help you or give you wisdom in these areas.
 - c) Review yesterday's journal and see how God worked.
2. Look Up
 - a) Write down the passage you are reading or a key verse from it
 - b) What does it teach about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, etc (vertical question)?

- c) What does it teach about mankind, about you, about others (horizontal question?)
- 3. Look Ahead
 - a) Ask God to show you how you can live this passage out in obedience today. Sit in stillness for a minute.
 - b) Write down what you think God is telling you to do.
 - c) Ask God to show you if there's someone else in your life you think should hear about this passage.
 - d) Write down the name that popped in your head
 - e) Spend time praying
 - (1) Worship God for what you learned about him
 - (2) Confess what you learned about yourself
 - (3) Ask for help in obeying and sharing
 - (4) Pray for those on your heart
- 4. Where to begin? Rack Card or start reading through the NT
- D. How do I get this flowing water of the Spirit of God? **Ask for it.**
 - 1. Salvation = being reborn by and seal/indwelt with the HS
 - 2. Filled = something different. Filled to overflowing results in joy, peace, patience, kindness, fruit of the Spirit
 - 3. Have you ever asked for God to save your soul and bring you to life?
 - 4. If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying , 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him... Lord forgive me for years for not viewing your HS as a gift!
 - 5. Jesus follower, Have you ever asked for God to fill you with his Spirit to the point of overflow?
 - a) It is a command you know!
 - b) How delighted the Father is to give the Holy Spirit to his children. Do you ask?
- E. Summary: The humanity of Jesus got weary and tired just like us, but he was filled with the Spirit of God without measure. From that well of power, he had all the energy that he needed to accomplish the work God gave him to do. By the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit in all who believe, the same life-giving, rest-providing, overflowing power of God is available to you too! Find your rest in Jesus. Remain, dwell, abide with Jesus for continued rest. Spend time daily with God. Ask to be filled with his Holy Spirit to overflowing!