



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Scripture: John 4:11-15

TITLE: Living Water

Have you been to one of those restaurants that offer unlimited trips to the buffet or never-ending crab legs? In college I worked at the Olive Garden where they proudly served the unlimited soup, salad, and breadsticks. Oh how people loved to pay \$5 for a marathon meal and leftovers for later.

But here's the truth of those gimmicks. They do end. They are limited to one visit. You need to come back again to experience nourishment.

Jesus offers refreshment that never ends. But it's not the refreshment most people seek. What does Jesus offer? Let's keep looking at the Book of John in John 4:11-15.

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? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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.” 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.”

Jesus is traveling to Galilee and stops in Samaria where he breaks tradition and speaks to a woman at the well. He's just offered her living water that requires no second drink. And that's where we picked it up in verse 11.

The woman is thinking physical water and physical needs. That's why she questions Jesus with skepticism. And then to display her doubt again, she says, “Are you greater than Jacob?” In other words, even Jacob who gave us this well couldn't produce water that satisfies completely. Who do you think you are?

Jesus says, “You nailed it. Physical water is good. This well provides refreshment but it's not everlasting. What I offer is incomparable and fully satisfies your deepest need.”

The woman does not fully understand what He's offering so she says, “Yep. I'll take that kind of water. I will get living water and won't need to come to this well anymore.” She means well. But she's confusing what Jesus offers with what He does not.

She is really no difference than the rest of us. She is looking for a kind of prosperity gospel that does not exist. I don't think she means harm. She simply does not fully understand what Jesus offers.

So here's my challenge for you: hear Jesus clearly. We intentionally or unintentionally create Jesus and His Gospel in our image or in a way that we like better. I've done it. I do it when I'm not listening to Jesus and His Word.

How are you confusing Jesus' offer of salvation for something material and finite? Have you bought into a prosperity gospel? What about a free grace gospel that promotes a license to sin? Jesus' Gospel is powerful enough to save your soul and change your life. But if we're not careful we hear something He is not promising.

So today, let's hear Jesus clearly. When we do, we will win the day.