

**2017: Week 18**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017*"Unlikely Encounters"***John 4:3-4, 7**

<sup>3</sup> (Jesus) left Judea and went away again into Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And He had to pass through Samaria... <sup>7</sup> There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.'" (NASB)<sup>1</sup>.

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On Sunday Bill preached from **John 4**, walking us through the excellent passage of Jesus interacting with the woman at the well. Jesus' dialogue with this woman is fascinating. He was a Jew, but she was a Samaritan. **John 4:9** informs us, "Jews had no dealings with Samaritans." This in and of itself presents a unique situation. Furthermore, Jesus was blameless and absolutely righteous in His character. This woman carried quite a bit of baggage from a sketchy and disreputable past. And yet Scripture reminds us that God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). God had a specific plan, and His plan involved Jesus meeting this woman and presenting her the opportunity to receive living water. Praise the Lord for His plan to initiate a relationship with any of us, especially since He is the One who has been wronged, and we (as humanity) are the ones who have wronged Him (our sin). The conversation between Jesus and this woman should remind us of the necessity of salvation in Jesus as well as the incredible resource we possess as believers who are indwelt with God's Holy Spirit.

**1. "THE TEXT"****READ John 4:1-42**

- As Bill mentioned on Sunday, most Jews would not have traveled through Samaria to go from Judea to Galilee. They would usually cross the Jordan River to the east and then head north while avoiding Samaria altogether. There were alternate routes of travel, so passing through Samaria was not required nor expected. Why then do you think then the text states in **4:4**, "And (Jesus) had to pass through Samaria"?
- How might the water that Jesus was offering be a water of salvation for this woman, "springing up to eternal life"?
- How might the water that Jesus was offering be a water of sustenance for the believer, being a "well of water" within the believer that can be regularly drawn upon?

**2. "YOU"**

- Do you draw upon the resources that God has given you through His Spirit and in His Word? If so, how do you do so? If you're not drawing upon the Lord for strength, wisdom, or direction, how can you better do so?
- How might this text be an encouragement to you when you feel like God wouldn't want to involve Himself with you?
- How might this text remind you of what a precious possession you have in Jesus? How might that realization encourage you to live well for Him now?

**3. "REMEMBER"**

- John 7:37-39** <sup>37</sup> ... Jesus: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
- Romans 8:11** "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead *will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*"

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Lord, thank You for giving me eternal life through Jesus. I trust You and believe that Jesus is my Savior, that His death on the cross paid for my sins completely. Thank You for leaving me with such a powerful resource in Your Holy Spirit. Help me to draw upon Your Spirit for help, for strength, for wisdom, and direction. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.