



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – October 1, 2023

Sermon Title: 'At the Bottom of the Well'
Sermon Series: Refresh: Sharing Christ in Everyday Conversations
Scripture: John 4:7-15
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/Concept: Spiritual conversations may begin with our thirst/need, but they end with Jesus. God has created the human heart to be thirsty for something beyond itself and beyond life. Jesus is both the gift of God and the one who gives us the Spirit (the living water). Every true spiritual conversation leads to Jesus.

Icebreaker: (if with a small group) If you could select only one thing to drink for the rest of your life, besides water, what would you choose?

Reflections on the sermon: What did you learn from the sermon that encourages you to start spiritual conversations with others?

Background Scripture: John 4:7-15 (New International Version)

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. Did the woman at the well refuse to give Jesus a drink? What was her response to Jesus' request?
2. For what additional reasons, other than those expressed in verse 9, might the woman have been surprised that Jesus would ask her to give him a drink?
3. Do you find it surprising that the woman spoke so bluntly to Jesus? Why do you believe the woman felt comfortable enough to speak with Jesus and ask Him pointed questions?
4. What is the living water that Jesus refers to in verse 10? What does the living water mean to you?
5. What did the woman say in verses 11-12 that showed her misunderstanding of what Jesus offered for her spiritual needs? What do you imagine her tone of voice was when making these comments?
6. What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water He offered? (Verses 13-14) Why was Jesus' metaphorical use of water and thirst a perfect way to teach the futility of the things of this world and the eternal benefits of salvation?
7. By verse 15, do you think the woman understood more of what Jesus was talking about? Why or why not?

Going deeper:

1. How has 'living water' been used as a metaphor in the Old Testament? (Jeremiah 2:13; Zechariah 14:8)
2. How was Jesus' message to the woman at the well similar to his revelation as the Bread of Life in John 6:35?
3. What do we learn from the verses about Jesus' love for each of us and His desire to meet us where we are?
4. How does the manner in which Jesus started a spiritual conversation with the woman at the well provide insight as to how we, too, can start spiritual conversations? What are some ways you might open such a conversation with someone this week?

Personal Self-Reflection Questions:

1. What groups of people do you feel uncomfortable being around? Why?
2. Do you ever dismiss people as 'lost causes?' Why? Do you doubt the Lord's power to act?

Questions that could easily arise during your conversations this week...

- When in your life did "God" become an important word to you?
- Has there ever been a time when you sensed God at work in your life?
- Would you be willing to tell me what you believe about God and eternity?
- How can I pray for you today?

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord-

We praise you Lord for your love that knows no bounds. We thank you for loving us and wanting to have a relationship with us. Help us to show that same love to others and reach across society's barriers to have spiritual conversations with those God has placed in our path.

In Jesus' name, Amen.