“Jesus: Giver of Living Water”
John 4:1-14; Isaiah 12:1-6
January 28, 2007

Introduction: When you live in the desert, you really learn to appreciate water. In fact, when you live in the desert, and have to deal with daily danger of dehydration, you really learn that water is truly life giving. In a reminder of how at times, free choice is less than healthy, I used to see people load up whole shopping carts of soda or beer instead of water. How can we make sure we drink as deeply as we can and need to from water and from the source of Living Water?

How is God like a Spring of Living Water?

The nation of Israel was well aware of what life in a desert entailed, so they knew well the importance of water for daily survival. Since water is so essential for human life, it should be no surprise then that God is often referred to in the Bible as being like Living Water to us, or as providing us with Living Water (and thus being the creator and giver of life, who gives us everything we really need). In Jeremiah 2:13, God laments, “My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” God is this Spring of Living Water who continually gives life to us. In those days, there were two main sources of water, such as flowing and clean water from natural springs or still water from humanly made cisterns or wells. Springs of water were preferred as healthier and more natural. Cisterns were often broken and leaky and limited even when properly working in what they could hold. This analogy reminds us that anytime we seek life from something or someone else, from the created rather than from our Creator, it will be less than what God plans for us.

Water is also linked to God’s offer of salvation and new life. In Isaiah 12:2-3, for example, Isaiah says, “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” God offers us to save us, to give us life, if we are willing to draw from His wells. Even at the end of the Bible, in Revelation, we see this promise in 21:6, where God says, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.” God then promises to give us life, to save us and to meet our deepest needs. Just as we...
need water in order to live and to be healthy, we also need to be in a relationship with God in order to really be alive.

**How does Jesus Satisfy our Spiritual Thirst?**

Jesus, as the Son of God, is also linked to water. In two passages from John we see that Jesus promises to be life giving to us. In John 4:13-4, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman (and us), "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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." The term welling up is a dynamic and vigorous term referring to a leaping up. Jesus is promising us that we will have an abundant and dynamic life if we drink from the water He offers us. The idea of spring water reminds us that what God offers us is lasting, healthy, pure, natural and clean. We were created to need and to enjoy Jesus, so His living water will truly satisfy us.

One way that Jesus satisfies our spiritual thirst is with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus later says in John 7:37-8, “If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, streams of living water will flow from within them.” John says that this will be the gift of the Holy Spirit (7:39). Jesus invites each of us to come to Him if we have a spiritual thirst. But we must first acknowledge and admit our need for Him. Too many people today are in denial of their spiritual needs, or too often, they look to satisfy these needs in the wrong places or in the wrong ways. Jesus made this promise during the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, when Israel remembered the faithful provision of God during their wilderness wanderings, including of water from a rock. Jesus is saying that instead of looking to the past, we are to see in this very moment, He is willing to satisfy our deepest spiritual longings and thirst.

**How can we allow streams of living water to flow out of our lives?**

Jesus tells us that we are to enjoy having streams of living water flowing out of us, that is, we are to be life giving and Christ sharing. The gift of Jesus Christ is never to be viewed as something for us, for us to benefit from. Jesus reveals Himself and calls us to Him, in order that we will then go out and share Him with others. Look at how this Samaritan woman responded. At the beginning of the day, she would have been an unlikely candidate to be chosen by God as an evangelist. Her immorality, her being a woman and her being a Samaritan would have all added up to three strikes against her. John tells us what happens next, saying in

To grow in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. www.peacechurch.net
4:39, “Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony.” Because we know Christ, we must share Him with others so they too can drink deeply and joyfully from the wells of salvation. We must understand that the blessing of Living Water must and is intended by God to be shared.

One other way that we allow streams of living water to flow out of us is by actively and intentionally seeking, fostering and enjoying the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As David says in Psalm 42:1, “as the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, o God. My soul thirsts for God, the Living God. When can I go and meet with God?” Do you long for more of God in this way? Do you literally feel your ache for God in your mind, body and soul? If we want to grow in our relationship with Christ, we must first humbly acknowledge our need for Him.

Being at church then is not about being respectable or looking good, but rather being a Christian is about clinging to God and seeking His presence in order that we might survive. Do people see Jesus in us? Do we live our lives in a way that gives glory to God? Do we live our live in a way that points others to the cross? What statements are we making with our lives? What will others say about us? What do you seek life from other than God? What does your life suggest that you cannot live without?

We should prayerfully expect God to bring people into our lives who need Him and who He wants us to share Him with. The Holy Spirit will make us as Christ was in this world. The Holy Spirit will spur us to get out of ourselves and to get interested in others, to be useful to God. The Living Water then will flow in and through us as a wave of blessing in and to our world.