

# Dig – Well # 1

Sunday, January 5, 2019  
10:30 AM

## Genesis 26:12-25 (NIV)

**18** Isaac **reopened the wells** that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

**19** Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered **a well of fresh water** there. **20** But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. **21** Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. **22** He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

**23** From there he went up to Beersheba. **24** That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

**25** Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants **dug a well**.

## John 4:4-24 (NIV)

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down **by the well**. It was about noon.

**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."

Last week we discussed the importance of the wells in these two passages of scripture and I posed the question

"What wells will you draw your spiritual water from this year?"

We said that we must recognize...

### **1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water**

The fact is we all need fresh spiritual water to maintain our lives and our growth.

Moreover, you cannot survive off of yesterday's water... We need a fresh supply

We also said that we must come to appreciate...

### **2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells**

In our desire for spiritual water let us first look to those wells which God established to provide spiritual nourishment to our souls. If they have been rendered ineffective in our lives lets reopen them as we head into a new year. If they have been forgotten by us or perhaps never understood and appreciated; let's take time to drink from these wells.

In doing so we must be aware of the two threats

That may prevent us from drawing fresh spiritual water from those wells

- Wells that have been stomped up and rendered ineffective by the enemy. The enemy knows the importance of these old wells and seeks to keep us from benefiting for their nourishing supply. What enemies threaten to fill up the wells of God in your life. Lack of time, over-commitment, laziness, sin?
- Th second threat, pictured by Jacobs well, in the text about the Samaritan Woman speaks of spiritual practices that have been forgotten, never passed on and thus never understood.

Finally, we said that we need to realize...

### **3. The required Necessity of Work**

We cannot ignore the fact that digging takes work. Whether we are re-digging old wells or digging some for the first time; digging takes work. Maintaining open wells takes work. Drawing water from those wells takes work.

We are not saved by works, but that doesn't mean that there is not work for us to do. We are called to cooperate with the power of God that is at work within us.

What wells do you need to re-open this year? What wells have you never drunk from?

The means of getting the water (The Bucket) is not near as important as the Well itself. There may be new methods of drawing the water and that is ok.

- The Well of The Word of God
- The Well of Prayer and intimacy with God
- The Well of Fellowship with other Believers
- The Well of The Baptism of The Holy Spirit
- The Well of Forgiveness
- The Well of Evangelism

LET'S DIG!

Today I want to take time to dig a little deeper into the first wells that we mentioned last week.

## 1. The Well of The Word of God

Again, our digging begins as we come to recognize the vital importance of the water we can draw from this well

### **Joshua 3:9**

Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.

### **Psalm 119:16**

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

### **Psalm 119:105**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

And yet there is evidence of a great drought of the word of God among the people of God

Amos describes the conditions of this lack of spiritual water with these words...

**Amos 8:11,13**

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord .

“In that day “the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.

Hosea describes the results in this way...

**Hosea 4:6**

my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Whether we are a brand new believer or have been following Jesus for a lifetime. We need the refreshing life found in the word of God. As God gave instructions to those who would be rulers over his people

**Deuteronomy 17:19**

It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

So how do we re-dig this vital well or perhaps dig it for the first time

**We start by having the word of God with us and reading it regularly**

Get a good Bible or put one on your phone. Start a reading plan. Stick to it and don't get discouraged if you fail sometimes. Pick it back up the next day and start reading again

Ask God to give you understanding before you read and after you read

**We dig even deeper as we begin to study God's word****Acts 17:11**

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Read the study notes, do one of the millions of Bible studies available online read commentaries and use a concordance to do your own studies. Be faithful to a Sunday

School class, or our Wednesday Night Bible Study or some other Bible Study Group. Partner with another believer to systematically read through and talk about the word of God on a regular basis.

Study for breadth, study for depth. Study a particular book of the Bible or do a topical study.

Take a particular word or phrase that stands out in a passage and do a detailed Word study and see what new meaning that brings to the passage

There are so many different options and remember that the type of bucket you use is not as important as the well you draw from.

But there will be many distractions you must overcome. This is the enemy trying to stop up your well. Things will get in the way, things like Facebook, that new book you want to read, that movie you've been wanting to see, TV, a busy schedule, other seemingly more important tasks, a nosy house, a phone call the lie that you can't understand what you are reading and a thousand more distractions but you must keep digging

#### **Psalm 119:34**

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

**Listen and apply what you are learning from God' Word.** One of the ways the enemy fills up this well is by taking advantage of our own lack of obedience to the truths that we have already been given. This produces a hardness of hearing and thus a lack of desire to listen to more

#### **James 1:22-25**

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

That's why the psalmist said...

#### **Psalm 119:11**

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. That word hidden is the Hebrew Word *tsaphan* and means stored up treasure Which brings us to another way in which we can draw water from this well

Memorize and meditate on specific passages of scripture.

**Jeremiah 15:16**

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

**Proverbs 6:21-22**

Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

Start with a small and familiar passage commit it to memory - including the reference. Say it to yourself over and over throughout the day. Read it often to make sure you are saying it correctly. Mediate on it by saying it slowly and emphasizing or stopping at different words.

Remember, this is not a competition. You do not get points with God nor do you earn a higher standing in heaven. What you do get is the life giving water of God's word. It will bless you, encourage you, guide you, strengthen you, teach you, correct you, up hold you, examine you, challenge you, revive you and keep you safe from sin.

**Deuteronomy 32:47 (NIV)**

<sup>47</sup> They are not just idle words for you—they are your life.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Blaise Pascal, Mathematician and Physicist, and Philosopher referred to what has been called a God shaped vacuum in every man with these words...

*"What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself"*

# How Bible Reading Can Change Your Life

by Tom Smith | [17 Comments](#)

Last year, my wife and I were hosting a dinner gathering in our home and one of our dinner guests was a young woman from China. She was attending a university in the US and was visiting with us while attending a Christian conference. During our dinner together, we asked her to share her testimony of how she became a Christian. Her story confirmed to me the awesome power of the Scriptures and how simply reading the Bible can change a person's life.

## Reading the Bible—The Best Diversion

She began by telling us her story about growing up in China where she and her family were all atheists. She knew nothing of God or His word. However, while attending a university in China she had the most amazing experience.

She would often go to the library each day to seek some diversion from her studies. Though she was a student of math and science, she felt she would like to read something different—possibly something on philosophy. But when she searched the shelves of the library she could find nothing suitable to read.

Turning across the aisle she noticed the religion section. At the bottom of one of the shelves she found a large, white-covered book, with the title “Holy Bible” on it. Having never read a Bible before, she began from the first page in Genesis. She repeated this practice for a number of days and then stopped. However, after a couple of weeks of not reading the Bible, she felt something was missing. She had this strong desire to continue her Bible reading.

## The Awesome Power of the Scriptures

While she was reading she came to the Bible verse that says, “And the dove came to him toward evening time, and there in her beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had abated from the earth” ([Gen. 8:11](#)).

When she came to this verse she was so deeply touched that she said, “I want to become a Christian.” No one told her that she needed to become a Christian, and the subject of this verse wasn't even about becoming a Christian. Instead, the power of the Scriptures touched her related to the need of becoming a Christian, and this simple experience began her quest to find out how she in fact could become a Christian.

Although time does not permit me to tell the rest of her story, I cannot help but marvel at how a born atheist, without ever hearing the preaching of the gospel, could want to become a Christian just by reading the first eight chapters of the book of Genesis (which, by the way, does not even mention Christ's name). All I can say is that the Spirit of God is ready to meet people on any page of the Bible.

How many lives could be changed if more people would pick up the simple practice of my Bible-reading friend. Many more of us could share how reading God's word changed our lives.

Commit yourself to a plan for digging and using The Well of The Word of God this year. And don't get overwhelmed by trying to do all of it at once. Just make sure you are taking a drink every day.