

Dig

Sunday, December 30, 2018
10:30 AM

Genesis 26:12-25 New International Version (NIV)

12 Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. **13** The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. **14** He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. **15** So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

16 Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

17 So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. **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)

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** 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."

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."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

In both of these stories, water not only represents something physical that we need, but something spiritual that we need as well. Jesus quickly points out to the Samaritan woman that she needs more than physical water. She needs the spiritual water that He has to offer.

As we prepare to enter a new year, I want to ask you - "What wells will you draw your spiritual water from this year.

1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water

Isaac and his men knew they needed water for themselves and their flocks and went to great lengths to ensure that supply

The woman at the well, like everyone else, needed water to live. Her efforts prove her desperate need

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

Genesis 21:14-19 (NIV)

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she^[a] began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18** Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she **saw a well** of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

Drinking from the springs of living water

Verse 1

I thirsted in the barren land of sin and shame, and nothing satisfying there I found; but to the blessed cross of Christ one day I came, Where springs of living water did abound.

Chorus

*Drinking at the springs of living water, happy now am I, my soul is they satisfy;
drinking at the springs of living water, O wonderful and bountiful supply.*

Verse 2

*How sweet the living water from the hills of God, it makes me glad and happy all
the way; now glory, grace and blessing mark the path I've trod, I'm shouting
"Hallelujah" every day.*

Verse 3

*O sinner, won't you come today to Calvary? A fountain there is flowing deep and
wide; The Saviour now invites you to the water free, where thirsting spirits can be
satisfied.*

Before we dig, we must recognize the vital importance of fresh water

2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells

The second thing we must come to appreciate before we dig, is the proven validity of old wells.

Both of these texts make references to old wells. The first references the wells that Abraham had dug and the second the well of Jacob. Both references imply something proven and useful about these wells.

In fact, Jeremiah reminds us how important these wells can be to our lives

Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV)

16 This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

There are two threats that we need to be aware of. In the first text, the wells had been made ineffective by an enemy. They were stopped up rendered ineffective as they were filled with earth. Isaac and his men then set to work to re-dig these old wells. What enemies threaten to fill up the wells of God in your life. Lack of time, over-commitment, laziness, sin? The enemy knows the importance of these old wells and seeks to keep us from benefiting for their nourishing supply

The second threat, pictured by Jacob's well, in the text about the Samaritan Woman speaks of spiritual practices that have been forgotten, never passed on and thus never understood. The Samaritan woman was confused over religious practices, but Jesus brought clarity as he opened her eyes to the truth

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

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 let's 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. I want to talk about six of them today.

- 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

What wells do you need to re-open this year? What wells have you never drunk from? Why not take the advice Jesus gave the woman at Jacob's well and ask Him for a drink?

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.

3. The required Necessity of Work

The third thing we need to realize today is the required necessity of Work.

Maybe it seems like a given to you, but 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.

Some mistakenly believe that once they are saved, once they have prayed, once they have spent some time reading through God's Word, once they have been filled with the Holy Spirit, that there is nothing more they need do.

But Paul tells us in Philippians that we should

Philippians 2:12 (NIV)

12 ...continue to work out {our} salvation with fear and trembling,

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.

Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Illustration: A baby is given life by and that life is sustained by loving and nurturing parents. But even that baby must learn to cooperate with its parents in order to receive the benefit of that love. That cooperation is work.

Feeding a baby is a lot of work for the parents, but that child must cooperate by doing the work of eating. It can be difficult at first teaching the childhood to eat. Sometimes they are lazy and don't want to do the work. Sometimes they have a hard time figuring out how to latch on and suck. But it is absolutely imperative that they eat.

God has designed us in such a way that he will not force us to partake of the sustenance that He lovingly provides for us. This is the work that he leaves for us to do. Taking and Eating

Illustration: Like the manna in the dessert, He provides, but we must gather and eat in order to be sustained. We will never find a lack in his supply - only in our willingness to be nourished from that supply

So will you recognize the vital importance of fresh water for your souls this year? Will you come to appreciate the proven validity of these old wells and start thirsting for their supply? Will you commit yourself, with God's help, to the work that is necessary, and start drinking today?

2019 begins in less than 2 days - LET'S DIG!