

Dig - Well # 3

Sunday, January 27, 2019
10:30 AM

Genesis 26:12-25 New International Version (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.

This morning we continue our quest to re-dig or perhaps dig for the first time wells of spiritual nourishment. As we do we must continue

recognize...

1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water

The fact is we all need fresh spiritual water to maintain our spiritual lives and growth. We cannot survive off of yesterday's water... We need a fresh supply

appreciate...

2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells

In doing so we must be aware of two threats that may prevent us from drawing fresh spiritual water from those wells

- Wells that have been stopped 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.
- Spiritual practices that have been neglected, forgotten, never passed on and thus never understood.

realize...

3. The required Necessity of Work

Maintaining open wells takes work. Drawing water from those wells takes work.

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.

So far we've discussed in detail two important wells

1. The Well of The Word of God
2. The Well of Prayer and Intimacy with God

This morning let's talk about a third well...

The Well of Fellowship with other believers

Hebrews 10:19-25 English Standard Version (ESV)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The vital importance of this well

Discipleship

[Proverbs 27:17](#) ESV

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Safety and strength

[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) ESV

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

[1 Corinthians 15:33](#) ESV

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Encouragement

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) ESV

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

[Romans 1:11-12](#) ESV / 42 helpful votes

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Wisdom

[Colossians 3:16](#) ESV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

[Psalm 55:14](#) ESV

We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.

Provision

[Acts 4:32](#) ESV

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Love

[Hebrews 13:1](#) ESV

Let brotherly love continue.

Preparation for Christian life and the return of Christ

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#) ESV

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ...

[Hebrews 3:13](#) ESV / 35 helpful votes

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Corporate Worship

[Colossians 3:16](#) ESV / 74 helpful votes

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Fulfillment of Jesus Mission

[Acts 4:31](#)

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Mark 16:20 (NASB)

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the [a]signs that followed.]

[[b]And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions.

And after that, **Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.**]

How do we dig, re-dig or maintain this well

1 Find a GOOD Church

One of the enemies we face with this well, is how we define the word church. For many it means nothing more than a place, a structure a building. It's programs, and services, ministries and equipment, it days and times

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme Here is the Church

[VIDEO CLIP \(Where's all the people\)](#)

But the fact is WE are the church.

the *ekklesia* is the community of believers who have been "called out" of the world to belong to King Jesus. **It is never identified with a building but always with the people.** The church may meet in a building, but it is not the building, the home; the church is the people (e.g., Phlm 2- "*The church in your house*" ; Col 4:15 - The Church in her house). The true church is the visible expression of the expanding Kingdom of God. The church is the community of believers who meet together, regularly and irregularly, to love one another, care for one another, carry one another's burdens, stir up one another to love and good works, confess their sins to one another

I believe we need a fundamental shift in how we think about the mission of the church. Let me illustrate, using three types of ships.

Some Christians see church as a cruise liner, offering Christian luxuries for the whole family—sports, entertainment, childcare services, and business networking. They show up at church asking only, "Can this church improve my religious quality of life? Does it have good family ministry facilities? Does the pastor preach funny, time-conscious messages that meet my felt needs? Do I like the music?"

If their church ever ceases to cater to their preferences ... well, there are plenty of other cruise ships in the harbor. In fact, often they get involved with three or four of them at once. After all, the music is great on Cruise Liner A, and the kids enjoy the youth program at Cruise Liner B, and we do most of our fellowship and Bible study with friends at Cruise Liner C, and we occasionally podcast the angry young pastor down the road who tells the funny stories. - J.D. Greear [Gaining by Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send](#).

So what makes a GOOD Church?

- One that is faithful to the entire Word of God
- One that is fulfilling the Mission that Jesus Gave
Matthew 28:19 English Standard Version (ESV)
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- One in which the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is evident
- One that has not compromised with the teachings of the world
Revelation chapter 2 speaks of the churches in Pergamum and Thyatira as having compromised themselves with the teachings of the world (practices described as

the practices and teachings of Baalam, The Nicolations and Jezebel - Sexual Immorality and Eating of food sacrificed to Idols

2. Quit waiting for Perfection

This has implications on 2 different levels...

- Some people think they have to be perfect in order to attend church. But if you are waiting for this you will never belong to a church. The church is the place where we can learn to be more like Jesus. It is where our imperfections can become known and overcome. It is where we learn to understand what we should be striving for
- Some people are looking for a PERFECT Church. There are no perfect churches. Only ones that are striving to be what God has called them to be and who will make mistakes and will fail at times, but who know how to stay humble and responsive to the correction and leading of the Holy Spirit.

3. Be Faithful, Loyal and Forgive

Hebrews seems to indicate that the benefits of being a part of the church are made available as we remain faithful to the concept of gathering together.

There are times and good reasons for leaving a church, but there is so much to be gained by learning to resist the urge to constantly church hop. Like the plant that is often uprooted and transplanted into different soil, so is the spiritual life of one who constantly changes churches

This will take forgiveness , a well we will talk more about later in this series.

4. Participate and Serve

[1 Corinthians 12:12](#)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.