

Dig - Well # 5

Sunday, February 10, 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.

Here's what we have said so far. In order to re-dig or dig for the first time these spiritual wells of nourishment, we must...

recognize...

1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water

appreciate...

2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells

realize...

3. The required Necessity of Work

In this series we have talked about digging and drinking from...

1. The Well of The Word of God
2. The Well of Prayer and Intimacy with God
3. The Well of Fellowship with other Believers
4. The Well of Forgiveness

Today I want to talk about

The Well of Evangelism

John 4:4-42 New International Version (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.[a])

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."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

35 Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. **36** Even now the one who reaps draws a

wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. **37** Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. **38** I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

1. Feel the urgency of the need

*Recently my daughters best friend came over for a playdate. They have been best friends since they were 3, they are both now 8. They had a great play day together which included dolls, restaurant, making slime, and to my dismay getting the slime stuck on the ceiling. Unfortunately, they don't go to the same school anymore, so this day was especially great. After her friend left, my daughter burst into tears. "I don't want Zeynep to go to hell!" "She is such a sweet girl, she doesn't deserve this, mommy -why don't you and daddy share with her parents?" I was immediately broken hearted. I responded that of course we have shared, we have even give them a Bible, unfortunately they just haven't made the decision to follow Jesus yet. We stopped right there and prayed for Zeynep and her family to understand the love and forgiveness that waits for them in Jesus. It is heavy on our hearts, that the beautiful people of this land don't know the salvation and freedom of Jesus. Our children experience this too, as every day we live among the lost - **Dustin Sunset***

2. Work the fields

Luke 10:1-2 (NIV)

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. **2** He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

3. Start Spiritual conversations

Luke 12:8-12 New International Version (NIV)

8 “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. **9** But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. **10** And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, **12** for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Exodus 4:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

11 The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord?

12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

4. Sow seeds of spiritual truth

- People are thirsty
- People are confused
- Confront sin with compassion

5. Point them to Jesus

Lets go for a hike

This summer we received news that a person from a remote village in the mountains asked for a Bible. This village sits 3 hours from the nearest city deep in the mountains. We sent a text message and this person of interest was willing to meet.

It was a 5 hour drive that included a lot of bumpy dirt roads and children potty breaks. When we arrived it was getting dark. We set up a camp an hour away from the village where our girls and interns could explore and enjoy a campfire. Before we left we prayed knowing this could be a trap. We never met this man so we went by faith to find out who was this possible seeker of truth. I

went with another local believer and continued down the dirt road into the mountains.

We ended up at a farm with three men waiting in the center of the road, my headlights shining, while a cloud of dust settled. We traded greetings and then we entered the home for a cup of tea. The old farm house had guns, animal skins and antlers on the wall. The two old farmers with sun baked leathery skin began to ask us questions. They asked who, where from, and why we came. My new friend sat next to me helping navigate the interrogation. I answered the questions and asked a few of my own questions about their life in a remote village. The conversation turned to nods and grins after a couple of cups of tea. My new friend (we will call him Lucky or security reasons) explained that these men hired him to work on the farm and that now that the work day is done. We could leave and drive to his village further up the mountain. We said our goodbyes and drove away with Lucky.

We laughed at how we first became acquainted and talked about the adventure of driving through the mountains to find him. I then asked him if he has been reading the bible and what he has learned. Right away with excitement "he said I read a story where Jesus fed 5000 people." He asked me if this was true.

"I replied I believe it is true." "I continued do you?" and "he replied yes." So then I proceeded to ask what kinda man can feed 5000 people. "He answered Jesus is more than a man he's like God." I stopped the truck and read him scripture about Jesus. After every verse I read "I asked him do you believe this? he kept replying yes. "I said since you believe let's pray." "He replied ok" so we talked about repentance and prayed.

I explained to him that since you've repented you can lead others to repent- since you've believed and prayed you can lead others to believe and pray. When we repent and believe, the bible says we should be baptized. "I showed him verses about Peter explaining baptism and asked him do you know a place where you can be baptized." "He answered yes, there is a waterfall 45 minute hike above my village and I want to go there." We planned to come the next day after breakfast and hike up to the waterfall for a baptism.

The next morning we met Lucky with my family and interns and prepared for what was supposed to be a 45 min hike. It turned out Lucky is a mountain man and hasn't learned the pace of a bunch of city slickers, the hike turned out to be longer. For a mountain shepherd this hike was a breeze but it took our family 4 hours to

hike. Yikes! We all made it with bumps and scrapes but found a gorgeous natural baptismal under a waterfall.

Lucky shared his story how he turned from his old religion and into his new baptized belief in Jesus. We celebrated with praise and prayer. I then told Lucky he is now a baptizer. That night we all camped together and woke the next morning and celebrated the Lords supper next to a campfire.

When we packed up to leave we prayed and made plans for our next visit. I then told Lucky that all that has happened to him he must share with people who are ready to hear this truth. I asked if he knew people who would listen he said yes I do have friends that will listen. A week later Lucky called me and said he has 4 friends that want to be baptized. Wow what miracles when we teach them to obey the commands Jesus taught us. Please Pray for Lucky he is one of the only believers in his state but the first of many.

6. Don't quench the enthusiasm of new believers

Col 1:6 "...all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."

7. Feed on the fulfillment that comes from doing the work of evangelism

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NIV)

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.