

The Well

It is hot outside and warm in the house. The air conditioner, something I once thought of as frivolous and not necessary, is not working. How did I come from being the person who hated air conditioning to the woman that now needs it. I hated (a very strong word but not inaccurate) it and wore sweaters at work all the time. I have called to have it repaired and have been told it will be a week before anyone can come out and fix it. In thinking about this today I thought of the well that I loved when I was little. At 18 Mile and John R or in that general area by Saltwater Pool, there was a well where people could stop and get a drink of water. My Father could not drive past it if I was in the car, I wanted a drink of that cool water and would not stop talking about it until I had my drink of water. I loved that water, it was so cool, and I loved the taste (still do) of well water. There was also a well in Birmingham at a park at 15 Mile and I would insist that we get a drink there. My Dad always stopped, probably more to shut me up than to please me but whatever, it worked. I was thinking about that well today as the house is warm but not unbearable and I am thirsty. When we were in Israel, I remember looking at the hot sand and the people walking in their long robes and sandals, and I thought of Jesus walking on that same sand, and he became thirsty and saw a well. He stopped and saw a woman drawing water from the well, a well called Jacob's well, and asked her for a drink. The woman objected saying, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus told her, "If you knew who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." He further told her that everyone who drank the water from the well would thirst again but those that drank his living water would never thirst again and the water he gives would become in the receiver a spring of water, welling up to eternal life. The Samaritan woman was amazed at what he told her and how much he knew about her. She had been married five times and now was living with a man who she was not married to. The woman went to her village and told others about the man she had seen at the well and many believed her testimony and then Jesus stayed for two days teaching and through his words many more became believers. There are many that thirst for the "Living water" that Jesus offers. May we offer them the comforting and accepting words of Christ and tell them they are worthy of love offered through living water and that just as Jesus knew the story of the life of the woman at the well, he knows each of us and all who accept the living water offered by Jesus will not thirst again and that trust and belief will give the receiver eternal life. The Samaritan woman told all she met about her encounter with Jesus that day and we are also called to bring others to the living Christ. Many became believers and Jesus stayed two days and taught and gathered many to his mission.

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is told in John 4:4-42. In verses 28-30 it says, "Then leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him."

Dear Lord, we thank you for this day, may we use it in your service. May all we do honor you and the love you have given each of us. Be with those who are ill and those who are grieving. Be with us in our coming and our going. Be with the victims of war in the Ukraine. Be with those who are hungry and those who have little to comfort them. May those who thirst for you and for forgiveness and a new path find you here waiting. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them and keep them in your care. Be with Pastor Don and Laura as they travel, keep them safe and bless their ministry. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may we reach out and comfort them. Be with our country Lord, may we see the good in each other. In the most holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson