

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

13 September 2026

Jesus Speaks to the Women at the Well

Text: "Jesus answered and said to her. Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again: But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give them shall never thirst again; but the water that I shall give them shall be in them a well of water springing up into everlasting life." *John 4:13-14*.

You might say that the Woman at the Well of Samaria was a loser, a five-time loser, in fact.

She was born a woman, a Samaritan woman.

She had failed miserably in marriage.

In all likelihood she had come to the well at noon instead of late evening to avoid associating with the respectable women of Sychar.

She was a loser.

Jesus' conversation with her is a dramatization of his concern for losers.

In his love and compassion for this woman, Jesus used the occasion of their meeting to speak to her about her soul.

She had come to a well to draw water, and he was thirsty and asked her for a drink.

When she responded to his request in a rather negative way, he offered her living water.

He used the occasion of his thirst and her task of drawing water to teach an eternal truth.

This conversation of Jesus covered a wide range of subjects, but the idea of water is central.

He used the human experience of thirst and the need for water as an analogy, and he applied that analogy to the human spirit.

At the center of all of this is fundamental truth: the human heart thirsts for something that only Jesus Christ can satisfy.

Sinclair Lewis, in one of his novels, draws a picture of a respectable businessman who has run away with a girl he thinks he loves.

She says to him, "On the surface we seem quite different, but deep down we are fundamentally the same, we are both desperately unhappy about something and we don't know what it is."

In every person there is this nameless, unsatisfied longing, this vague discontent and frustration.

In every soul there is a thirst that only the water of eternity can quench.

Jesus said he was the source of living water.

Jesus was claiming in these words to be the one who alone can satisfy human longing.

He was offering himself as the one to quench the thirst of the soul.

He said to this woman what he later said to a great throng of people at a Jewish feast: "If any person thirst, let them come to me, and drink."

Jesus Christ satisfies the deepest longings of the mind.

His gospel offers a worldview and a philosophy of life that is logical, sensible, and consistent with experience.

And though it doesn't answer every question, it satisfies the deepest probing of the mind.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is intellectually solid, credible, and profound.

Don't let anybody ever tell you that only those who don't think are Christians.

For ones who says that has obviously not read history and does not know that Jesus Christ satisfied the minds of Augustine, Blaise Pascal, William Blake, Soren Kierkegaard, Leo Tolstoy, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and countless others.

Jesus Christ also satisfies the deepest longings of the emotions.

Though his gospel is surely a worldview, it is more than that.

It's more than a system of thought or a coherent set of ideas.
It is a relationship, a personal relationship with God.
In that relationship Christ provides comfort in sorrow, peace in turbulence, strength in difficulty.
Jesus Christ can meet every emotional need we may have.
Jesus Christ also satisfies the deepest longings of the will.
What we are powerless to do in our own strength, he will enable us to do by his saving and redeeming grace.
He will not only show us how to live, but he will also empower us to do it.
Jesus Christ satisfies the thirst of the mind because he is the embodiment of truth.
Jesus Christ satisfies the thirst of the emotions because he is the embodiment of love.
Jesus Christ satisfies the thirst of the will because he is the embodiment of God.
Jesus claims to be the continual supply of this water.
The last phrase of *verse 14* paints a beautiful image: it is the picture of a spring or a fountain bubbling forth with a continual supply.
The picture is not that Christ gives you a drink of water and then in a matter of hours you are thirsty again.
But the picture is of an endless, inexhaustible spring within your heart that never ceases to satisfy your thirst.
This spring or fountain is free, joyous, and self-sufficient.
It isn't dependent on the outward circumstances of life.
It is one that flows in all seasons of the year, in prosperity or adversity in health or in sickness, in life or in death, this water continually refreshes and cleanses the soul.
Some of us have been Christians for many years and can testify that the Christian life gets sweeter every day.
It may get harder in that you are called on to face new challenges and more difficult tests, but it gets better.
The satisfaction, the joy of Christ, becomes more intense as we walk with him.
His supply of living water is endless.
Jesus said that this spring of water springs up into everlasting life.
One of the elements of human thirst for God is the longing for eternity, for existence that is not subject to decay, vanity, or death.
Although we live in time, we have an eternal soul.
We thirst for life that can express the eternality of the soul.
We yearn for endless existence, for everlasting life.
Literature expresses that inward wish in a number of ways.
Poets and philosophers have written of utopias, a golden age, a heavenly existence.
The longing for heaven is inherent in the human soul.
It is thrust so deep that it expresses itself in every single one of us.
Jesus Christ promises that in him there is eternal life.
He offers living water that springs up forever.
He says to us that death is not the end of existence.
In him there is everlasting joy and fulfillment.
Heaven will not only be endless existence.
It will be an endless and unbounded and unlimited experience of God.
Our thirst will be quenched forever.
Once a person tastes of the living water that Jesus gives, nothing else will satisfy.
Once a person drinks of the fountain and experiences Jesus' quenching of one's deepest thirst, nothing else will satisfy.
How much of this living water do you have?
More is available to you.
Dive in, it is wonderful!