

DESPERATELY SEEKING SOMETHING

July 24, 2016 John 4:1-26 by Bob Branch
Believing Into Life, Part 11

BIG IDEA: We are built to be filled up, but we often chase things that do not fill us in a sustained way. Jesus is the answer to this thirst.

³ Jesus left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 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.)

1. Jesus crosses EVERY SOCIETAL BARRIER because she matters to God. (racial, gender & faith barrier.)

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."

2. People are constantly CHASING THINGS that do not satisfy. Jesus, and the life he gives satisfy us (if we will drink regularly).

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me... rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive..." **John 7:37-39**

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."

3. Jesus SEES YOU AS YOU ARE, and engages you with love, patience and understanding.

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."

4. God is more interested in the QUALITY OF THE WORSHIPPER, than the worship you offer.

Worshipping in Truth means you are responding to God as he truly is—the way he's revealed himself in his Word.

Worship in Spirit means the Spirit has awakened us within and changed us, and we are able to connect, minister to and express love and gratitude to the invisible God as real as the person sitting next to you.