

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 27, 2020

John 4:11

The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

Pastor Tom gave us the question of the night to begin discussion this week:

What do you believe the LIVING WATER is?

Answers included:

- Eternal life, the Holy Spirit, giving eternal life and hope
- The soul of believer is nourished by the living water
- We are always thirsty when we drink regular water but with living water we are satisfied, not thirsty again
- John 7: 37 -38 Promise of the Holy Spirit:
In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
- Difference between stagnant and moving waters
- You can only get living water from God, not from the store or Highland Sewer & Water.

Then Pastor Tom noted that on the surface this verse might not hold much meaning but it does go deeper as we study. He brought up 3 main points with explanations:

1. *You have nothing to draw the water with, you can't get the water out of the well without something to scoop it with.*

*We cannot save ourselves- we don't have any human way to salvation.

2. *The well is deep.*

*Our sins run deep and our human nature wants to rebel against our only source of living water- Jesus Christ

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Pastor Tom then quoted Dr. David Jeremiah on John 14:6.

“This is Jesus’ most offensive statement He ever said. Pastors don’t want to say what this means because it stirs people up...it sounds exclusive (not inclusive) This statement could get me into trouble. If pastors do not preach and teach that Jesus is the only way to come to the Father, then they are bringing damnation to their people when they should be bringing salvation!”

Next Pastor Tom had us reflect on the questions we often ask ourselves:

When will this pandemic crisis end?

When will things get back to normal?

*We need to look at the outside reasons for any crisis we go through...See what the Bible says about our heart, the core of our being, our human nature.

Jeremiah 17: 9 - 10

“9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

*People say “follow your heart” which can be good or it can get us into trouble. When you follow your own desires you’ll get into trouble, allowing your desires to become greater than God’s desires for you. You cannot trust your ‘wicked’ heart. Then in verse 10 the Lord ‘tries the reins’. Tom gave a good explanation of this terminology:

When you train a horse, you test what it will do. Using neck reins, it only needs a nudge to follow a direction. If it resists, then you must pull on the reins that are attached to the bit in its mouth, to let the horse know who is in charge.

God tries to nudge us first before he uses the bit. And each person is different; some need just a nudge and others need the bit. If a person walks contrary to God's way, God will pull on the bit.

So this demonstrates a battle between sin and salvation, between human nature (which leads to death) and Jesus and His Living Water (which leads to Eternal Life). When you follow your own way, life can get stagnant but following God's way, provides the Living Water.

And to answer the 2 questions: Pain and suffering (our crisis of the moment) will end when we begin to follow God's leading and not our own sin nature.

3. *Living Water*

Pastor Tom provided references for the Book of Revelations for more details about Living Water:

Revelations 21:6

"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

*This is Jesus speaking.

Revelations 20: selected verses throughout

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

*This is tough to comprehend - these 5 verses span 1000 years! These are the highlights, not the full story.

Verse 7:

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,”

*In 1000 years Jesus reigns on Earth with no wars, only peace and yet the Devil is loosed at the end. Yet how could the devil deceive people again?

Verse 4: (see above)

*Tom’s sister had mentioned a trucker being pulled over for inspection and the trailer was full of guillotines !?!? Note the beheading reference in v.4!

Verses 11 - 15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

*This is referring to the judgement of those whose names are NOT written in the Book of Life...those who do not have the Living Water of Jesus. Revelation Chapter 21 offers the time frame when this will happen. And we refer to this time each time we pray the Lord’s Prayer.

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

*There will be no more tears in Heaven, former things will pass away. Jesus will make all things new.

*Side note opinion - So if a loved one is not in Heaven, it won’t matter to us.

Revelations 22: 17 - 21

“17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

Verse 17:

*We can freely take the living water of life.

Verses 18 and 19:

*These are warnings to people about the words in the Bible.

Pastor Tom then opened up discussion on the lesson:

- The woman at the well took the literal meaning of living water but Jesus redirects her to the spiritual meanings.
- In Revelation 21:17 - the gift of living water is given freely, without a price.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*