WITNESS Message 6 November 3-4, 2012

Stay Thirsty My Friends! John 4:3-26

So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷When 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.) ⁹The 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.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." John 4:3-10 (New International Version)

Jesus doesn't only want us to *come* thirsty - He wants us to *stay* thirsty! Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well reveals ways for us to stay thirsty for God.

#1: WE STAY THIRSTY FOR GOD WHEN WE ACCEPT HIS INVITATION TO SEE HIM FOR WHO HE IS.

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." John 4:10 (New International Version)

When your heart sees God, who does it see?

You can tell how you see God by how you respond to Him.

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NIV)

#2: WE STAY THIRSTY FOR HIM WHEN WE RECOGNIZE <u>OUR NEED</u> TO BE <u>FILLED</u> <u>BY JESUS</u>.

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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." ¹⁵The 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." John 4:11-15 (NIV)

With what are you filling your life?

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10b (NIV)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV)

In order to get the best, we have to give up the rest!

What do I need to give up? What do I need to pour out?

#3: WE STAY THIRSTY WHEN WE ALLOW CHRIST TO MEND OUR BROKENNESS.

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." ¹⁶He 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. ¹⁸The 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." John 4:15-18 (NIV)

What will I do when the Holy Spirit reveals a wounded place in my heart?

Jesus is not content until you begin to look like Him!

#4: WE STAY THIRSTY WHEN WE ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE AND WORSHIP.

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our 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. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." ²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." John 4:19-26 (NIV)

The <u>location of worship</u> is not nearly as important as the <u>attitude of the</u> worshiper.

Only the Messiah can give the gift that satisfies the soul's desire.

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:37-39 (NIV)

Will you *come* thirsty? Will you *stay* thirsty?