

Introduction:

- All great civilizations have historically flourished around rivers and and major waterways or bodies of fresh water.
 - Mesopotamia, the beginning of civilization, was positioned between two great rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates.
 - Large cities like London, Montreal, Paris, New York, Tokyo and Chicago owe much of their success partially to the easy access they have to fresh water.
 - Where there is water, life flourishes! You can't do with out water in your life.
- In our passage this morning, Jesus talks about a water source that if we only knew of it and accessed it we would absolutely flourish. We would live a abundant/satisfied life sustained by Him. If we only knew...becomes the statement of the day today!!! Lets read...
- *“Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.””* (John 4:10, NLT)
- *“Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.””* (John 4:10, The Message)

I. If You Only Knew...

- A. Is a statement by Jesus declaring His desires to reveal Himself to this woman and also to us. *“Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.””*
1. It is a statement that is meant to challenge this woman's understanding. If you only knew!
 2. It is a statement that is meant to stir curiosity in her to cause her to look for more or to search out.
 - a) “What did he just say?” “Say what?” “Come again!”
 - b) “That was an odd way to answer a simple question.” “What is He talking about?”
 3. *If you only knew*,...that is, if you understood, perceived, recognized WHO it is that is speaking to you and WHAT it is that He offers, you would be asking Him for a drink.
 4. What we see in these words is Jesus taking the initiative to reveal Himself. God always takes the initiative to reveal himself to people. He wants relationship with us! His desire is to make contact with us.
- B. The woman seeing a Jewish man, asks the question, “Why are you asking me for a drink?”
1. So often what the common man on the street sees is another person. They do not see God. They do not see eternal life. They do not see a Fountain of life. They just see another person who they probably can't relate to. They see another person who is also tired in life, struggle to pay bills, raise kids and live life. We have to reveal the River.
 2. What the woman saw was a man, a Jew, someone “we do not normally relate to.” Jesus meets her question with a thought provoking statement: *“If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”*
- C. It is a statement of challenge not only to this woman but to every person who encounters the Christ. It is the reality we face today in this service...”If we only knew...who He is!”
1. If we only knew...How lost we really are without Him. If only we knew the tragic consequences of sin. If only we knew how great is God's concern/love for us. If only we knew the length to which God went to save us.
 2. We have a tendency to treat Jesus as just another brother, another man, and we fail to realize that He is the Son of God.
 3. Because we fail to realize who He is we fail to receive what He has to offer.

- a) If only they really knew who He really was...
 - (1) Judas wouldn't have betrayed Him
 - (2) Pharisees wouldn't have blasphemed Him and plotted against Him
 - (3) Nazarenes wouldn't have cast Him out of their town
 - (4) Pilate wouldn't have washed his hands of Him
 - (5) Disciples wouldn't have been so worldly, fretful
- 4. Hear the Word of Lord FCC, "If you only knew Him and what He has for you. What does he have for us? Two things: The Gift and Himself.

II. If You Only Knew... The Gift God Has For You

- A. The Gift. The woman sees a thirsty man but he offers her a gift...Living water.
 - 1. A gift is "a present; any thing given or bestowed; any thing, the property of which is voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation; a donation." Webster's 1828 Dictionary. A gift is neither earned or deserved.
 - 2. The gift is not a debt. It is not something that I am owed by God.
 - 3. The gift is not deserved. I can never be good enough to deserve the Gift that God offers.
- B. The Gift is more than a Jewish Prophet Its Living. He is the Son of God! She does not understand and it prompts more questions. Same with people who do not know Jesus. They always have more questions and this is good. It means they are looking.
 - 1. vs 9 "Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jews do not like Samaritans and visa versa.
 - a) She does not think he is capable of furnishing her with water. You have nothing to draw with. (Is that not how many people view God? How can God help me?)
 - b) She could feel inferior to Jesus because she is a Samaritan. I am not worthy to receive your help.
 - c) She could feel superior because she is a Samaritan. I don't need you.
 - 2. vs 12 Do you think you are greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well?
 - a) His statement offends her. How dare you say you are greater than Jacob who gave us this well. Religions and educated minds are always asking this because they cannot see who He is. Jn 8:58 "**Before Abraham was I AM!!**"
 - 3. How can you offer better water?
 - a) The better water was living water and it come from within a man.
 - b) Living water is water that is moving. Jesus desires to make us like God, one out of whom the water of heaven flows. (Ez 47 water from the throne)
 - c) Jesus did not call himself living water, he offered living water (Holy Spirit) He did call himself living bread. Jn 6:51
- C. The Gift God has for us is magnificent! Heb 1:6,8
 - 1. Angels bow to the gift. "*Let all of God's angels worship him.*" Heb 1:6
 - 2. His throne endures forever! vs 8 Angels stood amazed God became the gift to men!
- D. The gift of God is eternal/forever.
 - 1. Romans 6:23 *The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.*
 - 2. You will live forever. You will never thirst again for within you is living water.
 - 3. The gift of God is Light. I am the light of the world. You will never walk in darkness.
 - 4. The gift is free! You do not earn it! You do not deserve it. God bestows it/gives it to those who ask. *If only you knew the Gift God has for you!* Secondly....

III.If You Only Knew Who You Are Speaking To

- A. So often in this life we do not know who we are talking to. We just see another man. Ie. Coming through the door being greeted by happy Harley, and given the 'list' by Kelly.

- B. There are so many people in this life who are praying to “God” but have no idea of who they are talking to. Know this, God wants to reveal Himself to us. That can be a part of your daily prayer life. “Show me who you are”
- C. There are so many people who are asking things of the Son of God that if they knew who they were talking to they would be embarrassed.
1. Ie. A new lieutenant who came to General Zachary Taylor (North, civil war). The lieutenant saw the general and thinking him to be a servant asked him to polish his sword and scabbard for a few cents. The general did, and the lieutenant paid him. The next morning all the new lieutenants we called to meet the general. The new lieutenant was horrified and embarrassed to have asked the general to polish his sword. Yet he was humbled by the generals humility.
 2. If you only knew who you were talking to when you pray you would be embarrassed maybe humbled as you ask of him.
- D. If only you knew Him church! To us He says...
1. *I am willing!* Mt 8:3 to the man with leprosy
 2. I am compassionate! Mk 6:34 To the 5k. *Seeing them as sheep without a shepherd he had compassion.*
 3. I am the Way the Truth and the Life Jn 14:6
 4. I am the Light of the world. Jn 8:11; 9:5
 5. I am the Bread of Life, Living Bread Jn 6:48, 51
 6. *Before Abraham was...I AM!!* Jn 8:58
- E. Three things stopped this woman on this day from knowing God but it did not stop Jesus from revealing Himself to her until she knew.
1. Ignorance, Unbelief, Sin. This gives me hope. He took her past it all.
 2. Jesus took her past all three and made provision for her to know Him/to know God.

Conclusion

- Jesus want us to know Him. That is why He says, “If you only knew who asks of you...”
- If you only knew...How often have I said this to myself as I have listened to people, and spoken to those who were struggling with spiritual issues, to that person who is:
 - searching
 - insecure
 - lonely
 - bound
 - discouraged
 - indifferent
 - If only they knew...
- If you only knew who it was who is asking of you this morning...you would totally give your life to Him in a moment.