

- Rev. Grant Mangold, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## SPLASHING WATER ??

Thirsty? Longing for something that satisfies? What the world offers is like drinking seawater, as the old Roman proverb says, the more you get the thirstier you become." As you read John 4 today, you encounter the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus shares with her a wealth of life-changing information.

**# 1 - only Jesus offers living water.** Religious Jews carefully avoided Samaritans, considered a corrupt bloodline and corrupters of God's Word. But Jesus deliberately went to her neighborhood and met her at the community watering place. When she came to draw water from the well, Jesus asked her for a drink. This led to their conversation about "living water." Jesus used this powerful metaphor to invite her to trust in Him as the One promised in the Old Testament who would give the Holy Spirit to indwell believers.

She kinda seemed to miss the point, so Jesus said, *"Go call your husband and come back."* This exposed her emptiness and her need for God's "living water." Jesus knew her life situation - married five times and now living with yet another man. Without spiritual truth, her life in every respect was in drought. You too know lots of thirsty people. They don't seem to make good life decisions. Loose living. Failed marriages. Pornography. Immorality. Living together. Etc. Just following the culture brings the sad consequences of disobeying God's truth and wisdom. Pursuing sexual fulfillment, they remain empty. Thirsty.

**# 2 - you are to splash around God's living water.** You see, at the intersection of Church Street and State Street stands a public square. It's there that Christians are being told to "shut up." That's the only argument they have, those who reject the Bible and the Lordship of Christ. But as Christians, our main concern is not the *behavior* of people around us, but their *beliefs*. The Gospel changes hearts and minds and wills - changing lives according to God's truth. That's why we keep talking about Jesus. When we don't, we get laws like re-defining marriage or using tax money for abortion and fetal tissue trafficking.

But the Samaritan woman believed in Jesus, and told everyone she knew about Him. This woman of no reputation had just met Jesus, who pours out the living water of the Holy Spirit. *"Can this be the Christ?"* she asked them. That's *"the power of question"* - a good strategy for witnessing. Ask people to meet Jesus and then make up their own minds about Him. People flocked to hear and believe in Jesus.

**# 3 - don't let earthly things keep you from doing God's heavenly work.** John 4 also records the teachable moment for Jesus' disciples. They were concerned about lunch, and failed to see the needy people right in front of them, in the very town where the Samaritan woman was witnessing about Jesus. Then Jesus changes the metaphor. He says, you have a saying *"yet four months, then the harvest."* In other words, don't expect harvest if you just planted the seed. But He said, *"look - the fields are white to harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life."*

Just then the villagers came looking for Jesus, and verse 41 says *"many more believed because of His word."* They told the Samaritan woman, *"it is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

The disciples learned an important lesson. Don't get distracted by your own lunch when other people are looking for living water. If you've put your trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, then you have the living water of the Holy Spirit within you. You're here to splash it around. You're here to reap a harvest of souls - if only you'll tell them the Good News about Jesus, and invite them to trust in Him too.

See, in those early days of God's Kingdom on earth, they thought harvest was a long ways off. Their timetable was faulty. Maybe we are like that too - thinking we know God's timetable better than He does. But now, nearly 2,000 years later, some think the "final harvest" of judgment is any day now. Maybe!

But what did Jesus command? Verse 38, ***"I sent you to reap."*** Don't let any earthly perspective prevent you from staying busy to *"make disciples"* until the moment He returns. You cast longing glances to the shade tree at the end of your hard harvest row, where living water and a wedding feast await the believer in heaven. But TODAY, your job is to keep on keeping on - splashing His living water to all around.