

## Jesus Gives Living Water! (John 4:14)

Hello Dear Listeners:

Jesus Christ came to this world to save sinners. He came to bring real hope and life from God the Father in heaven. Every one of us needs Jesus Christ to rescue us. We are all lost and wandering away from God. But God did not simply leave us to our own devices. He came in the person of Jesus Christ to save those who are lost.

In John 4, we see Jesus in action, speaking to the lost and giving life and hope. Jesus was walking from Judea to Galilee. To get to Galilee he needed to go through Samaria. At that time, the Samaritans lived in that country. The Jews and the Samaritans did not get along and some Jews even refused to set foot in Samaria. But Jesus walked through their country for he also sought the lost among the Samaritans.

Jesus was tired from all the walking and sat down by Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus asked her, "Will you give me a drink?" The woman couldn't understand why he would ask her this since he was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. Jesus uses this occasion to present the gospel. He points out that everyone who drinks normal, physical water will get thirsty again. But he is able to give a different kind of water, living water which if someone drinks will result in him never being thirsty again.

Jesus says to the woman, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Now the woman is really confused.

So let's take a closer look at these words of Jesus and hear what he is saying. What is the living water Jesus is speaking about? It is the gift of new life, the

gift of fellowship and communion with God. It is the full and complete life which we were meant to live when God created us.

How do we receive this new life, this living water? It is not something we can achieve for ourselves. It is not as though if only we dig a well deep enough, then we will be able to draw this living water.

We can only get it from Jesus. It is his gift to us. Jesus emphasizes this in his words to the Samaritan woman. Twice he says, "The water I give him". We receive this living water by faith from the Lord, from the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who is at work in our lives. This living water is a divine gift. God the Father has sent his Son into this world because of his great love towards sinners. God the Son gave himself as the only sacrifice which could atone for our sins and in him alone is life.

We can only begin to truly live when we look in faith to Jesus Christ who gives us his living water. God the Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of believers and instills in them a heart which is open and willing rather than closed and unwilling, a heart which is soft rather than hard and unyielding, one which desires the good rather than one which desires what is evil. Once we were dead but through the power of the Spirit we are made alive.

This water which Jesus gives is in no way a reward which we receive because we deserve it. It is purely a gift of grace. Go to the Lord in prayer and plead with him to give you this precious gift of living water. It can only come from him. God is merciful and gracious and loving towards his children. He will never turn away anyone who comes to him in humility and sincerity of heart.

Now the fact that this living water is a gift from Jesus does not mean that we are to simply remain passive. For when we receive water, then we must also

do something with it. We must drink it. If someone gives you some water and you don't bother drinking it but instead ignore it, walk away from it or dump it all on the ground, then you have rejected the water and did not actually receive it as the gift that it was to you. But when you drink the water that is given to you, then it does actually benefit you.

And so when we hear the gospel, then we must respond to it and believe it. Such a person will receive the benefits of the gospel. As Jesus says here, "*Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.*" This living water which Jesus gives will result in new life in the person who drinks it. Once he starts his work of renewal unto new life in us, then he will not stop. This does not mean that our life of faith will always be easy but it does mean that the work of Jesus Christ is always completely sufficient for those who believe. His redeeming work results in the complete forgiveness of our sins. When Jesus Christ sends his Holy Spirit into our hearts, then we will more and more hate sin and flee from it and delight in righteousness and holiness instead.

Each one of us has been created by God so that we would serve and honour him in our life. Too often we are led astray by our own desires and think that we can find satisfaction in life by pursuing our own pleasures. We might think that we can find comfort and rest and peace in life by going after the things of this world whatever they may be. But then we will find out that our thirst is never quenched. We discover that we are trying to draw water from a broken cistern. We may keep going back but the situation never changes. As we frantically dig for some signs of water, only dry sand mocks us.

Why does this happen? Because the Lord did not create us in such a way that other forms of comfort would be able to help us. A broken cistern cannot hold much water. Eventually the water will all drain away and we are left with nothing, no water at all. He alone is able to give us living water. We were designed by him to rejoice in him and serve him with everything we have.

When we search for counterfeit gods and worship them instead of the true God, then we will always be thirsty and never satisfied. Then we will be like the man in the desert who thought he saw water in the distance only to be disappointed yet again that it was a mirage.

Therefore, drink deeply from the living waters which Jesus gives. We will never thirst when we drink his water because his water gives real satisfaction. It is only in him, God's Son and the triune God that our souls can truly find rest and peace. When we worship him and live for him, then life is beautiful and full.

Delight in the Lord and his holiness. Sing praises to him and fill your heart with his Word, diligently searching the Scriptures and drinking in the glory of his holiness and righteousness. Stand amazed at the wisdom, compassion, mercy and holiness of Jesus Christ our Saviour. See his great love in his willingness to give himself for the ransom of sinners like us.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the gift of living water will also become in the one who receives it a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The one who drinks Jesus' living water will find that in himself there will grow and develop a spring of water which wells up to eternal life. What an incredible promise and blessing! This spring of living water in us will result in us more and more sharing in God's righteousness and holiness until after this life we will be perfect and holy as he is. This spring of living water in believers will also testify to others about the truth of the gospel.

The Samaritan woman who heard and believed Jesus' words testified to this herself. She told others in her town about Jesus and they also believed in him. As those who believe Jesus' words about this living water, let us tell others about him and become springs of living water for others! May the Lord have mercy and cause many to turn from broken cisterns to the living water which

he alone can give. Rest in him alone and find your satisfaction and joy in his living water. Amen, and thanks so much for listening.