

## GOT THIRST?

(John 4:4-42)

### We're a thirsty culture

- There are many thirsts...
- ...and no shortage of beverages
- Jesus claims to be the ultimate thirst-quencher...
- ...for all who acknowledge their thirst

### Jesus is the source of satisfaction for thirsty souls

*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.*  
(John 4:14)

## QUOTES OF NOTE

It's always Something Else. I'm always focused on Something Else. Something Else is something other; something other than what I have, some place other than where I am, someone other than those I'm with. That's what will make me happy. I'm not sure why I always focus on Something Else, but it seems to be rooted in my lack of satisfaction with What Is. I see in myself a restlessness that displaces even the possibility of contentment. What Is is never what I want. I don't want the job I have; I don't want to live where I live; I don't want the people I'm with. I want Something Else. Unfortunately, not long after Something Else becomes What Is, I want Something Else. What is this unquenchable thirst? What is Something Else? (Anonymous journal entry)

O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. (St. Augustine, *Confessions*)

*My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. (Jeremiah 2:13)*

Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger. Well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim. Well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire. Well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy, that does not mean that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. (C. S. Lewis, in *A Severe Mercy*, Sheldon Vanauken)

The woman had assumed the living water Christ talked about was like the liquid in the well, but instead, Christ redirects her immediately to a thirst of a different sort: this desire to be known and loved anyway. In no way does Jesus judge this woman, stand over her and condemn her, or even mention the idea of sin; rather, He appeals to the desire of her heart, pointing out the dehumanizing cycle of her life that has driven her through relationship after relationship, none of which gave her lasting fulfillment. In a sense, this woman was looking for importance and love through a man, and Jesus walks up and says what you really need is God, what I have is living water; and if you drink of it, you will never thirst again. It is interesting to me that He offers Himself to the deepest need of man, not a religion, not a formula, but Himself. (Donald Miller, *Searching for God Knows What*)