

## Jesus the Thirst Quencher

**John 4:1-18, 27-30**

What do you see? Is it a glass half-empty or a glass half-full?

Is the answer a matter of our perspective, or our experience?

Some say it is half-empty, because they have had to live their whole lives from the bottom half of the glass, with less than! They've had to kick, grab, scratch, & fight just to get to half-empty! Can anyone relate to that?

The woman at the well had such an experience – as a woman, a Samaritan, a divorcee, & now as an adulterer! There's a history here that we don't know!

I could see why she would be a glass half-empty, b/c of her life experience! I could also see why she would look at someone like Nicodemus & say, "He's a glass half-full person b/c he's lived his whole life with a full glass!"

Nicodemus was a man, a Jew, a Pharisee (righteous), a ruler of Israel! Maybe he wasn't just handed these things, but he did come from privilege!

The life experiences of these two very different people had to effect the way they saw themselves, others, and even Jesus.

Nicodemus' was given much, & he tried to fill the rest of his glass with his own accomplishments – but He was still lacking! He came to Jesus, but he came to top off his already full glass, with the little bit he thought was left!

The woman at the well had the opposite problem. Whatever she was given, had now been spoiled. And what she contributed to her own glass made it worse! She didn't need topped-off, she needed a whole new drink!

What's interesting is that Jesus' response to these very different people was the exact same – they both needed to rid themselves, of themselves, so that their lives could be filled to overflowing with Christ Himself!

Nicodemus needed to be born again! The woman at the well needed living water that would well up to eternal life – both are God's gift to us!

Nicodemus' life, lived in the top half of the glass, was not enough to earn himself eternal life, and the woman's life, lived in the bottom half of the glass, was not enough to forfeit her ability to receive this gift from God!

That should give us all hope, no matter where we are on that spectrum!

For some of us, things in life just seem to come easy, we are naturally talented, successful, & we get to hang out/live in the top half of the glass!

For others of us, life is hard & empty. It's a constant struggle, & it seems like while others start off with a full glass, we start out with ours empty!

But at the foot of the cross, the ground is level, and the glass gets emptied, no matter how full, in order to be filled with what is eternal!

The "new birth" that the Nicodemus' of the world need, is the same as the "living water" that is needed for the women (men) at the well of this world!

The perspective that Jesus gives is exactly what is needed, no matter who we are, and no matter where we are - No matter how deserving, or undeserving, we think we are of the gifts of God!

*"Years I spent in vanity and pride. Caring not my Lord was crucified. Knowing not it was for me He died, at Calvary."*

Do you know what that word vanity means?

- Definition #1 – Excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements. Nicodemus
- Definition #2 – The quality of being worthless. Woman at the well

It is only in the "Kindness" of our God that there is hope, for both! *"It's Your kindness Lord that leads us to repentance. Your favor Lord is our desire!"*

God's favor is not found in being just a little bit better, or a little bit less bad! God's favor is found in receiving His good & perfect gift, no matter our status!

**Vs. 10 – "Jesus answered, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'"**

**Vs. 13-14 – "Jesus said, 'Whoever drinks of the water that I give him/her will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become in him/her a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'"** A fountain image

The transformative love/power of Jesus covers both extremes & everything in between! Don't ever let your own view of yourself keep you from Jesus, whether you think you are already good enough, or could never be good enough. Leave it all behind at the foot of the cross, and come to the well!

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