

The Woman at the Well

“Unknown by Name”



“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

Many of us who have been attending church for years have heard about the woman at the well, but have we ever learned her name, or have we learned anything from her? Maybe we don't know her name because we are all like the “woman at the well.” We all set ourselves aside from wonderful blessings because we are not “like them.” If you read John 4:4-9 you will find that she was very concerned that Christ would ask her, a Gentile, for a drink when he was a Jew. They weren't supposed to associate with each other. Each thought the other was just a little different than the other!

Perhaps we sometimes think we are

just a little better than someone else, and according to many we have passed up a wonderful opportunity, and maybe passed up an “angel unaware.” The woman didn't even seem to think of charging him for the water or asking anything in return. Yet she was offered much in return. She gave freely as Christ did. She didn't realize immediately the value of Christ's gift. Neither do we. Have you even been given something by a total stranger or a friend who is just being nice? Have you ever given anything freely to someone you didn't even know. It gives us a “warm,” “fuzzy,” feeling. It can be a cart at a grocery store or a coupon they aren't using. It can be a friendly “hello” to a perfect stranger in a store or on the street.

Sometimes it is hard to accept a free gift. The story goes on to tell us that when the disciples returned they were surprised to see Christ talking with a Gentile. They didn't ask; they knew better. The woman was so moved that she left her water jar and went back to town to tell the people what had happened. She told the people that this stranger had told her everything she ever did. She thought that she had possibly seen the Messiah. The people believed her and followed her to the well.

Christ stayed with the people for two days and many believed. They said to the woman *“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we*



know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

We are so accustomed to wanting to buy everything. We seem to think we have to deserve the gift. And yet, this woman was given a free gift that was hers for the taking, much like it is given to us. Life water is a gift, not something we can purchase. It has already been purchased for us. All we need to do is be humble and accept. It sounds so easy, and yet it sometimes baffles us.

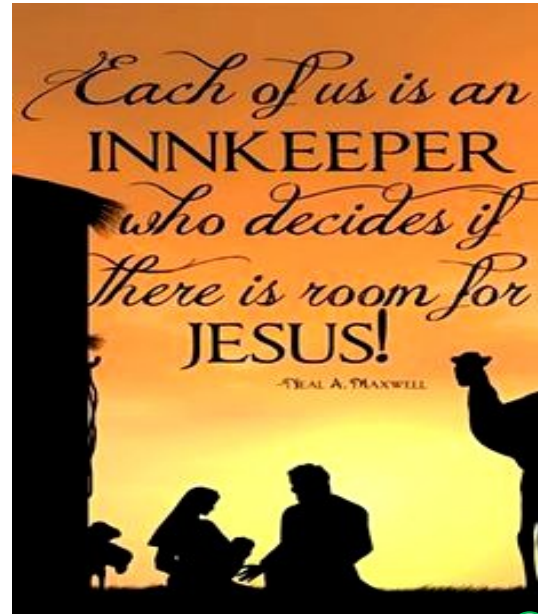
It is wonderful to be the giver, and many times it is also wonderful to be the receiver. With God, we are always on the receiving end. Yet, we ask for more.

A traditional song in our church is

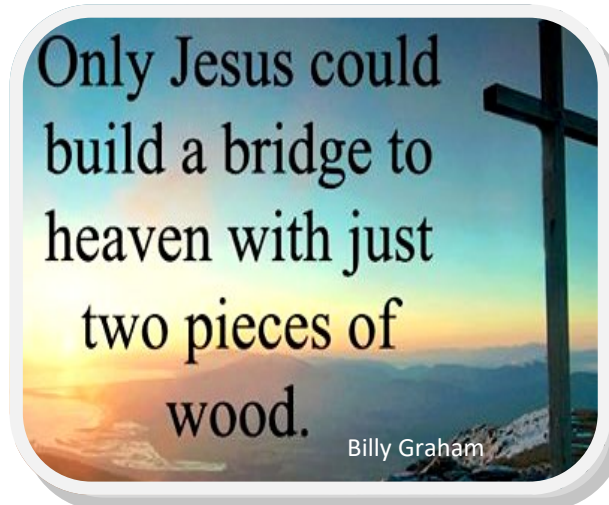
called “Fill My Cup Lord.” It has many verses, but the best known is the one about “the woman at the well.” To me it has a special meaning when I hear it played during Communion as I ask for forgiveness and ask my Lord to “fill my cup and make me whole.”

*“Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
For things that never satisfy
And then I heard my Savior speaking
“Draw from the well that never will run dry”
Chorus:
Fill my cup, Lord
I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting in my soul
Bread of Heaven feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.”*

I am sometimes like the woman at the well, are you? We are all sinners, just as is pointed out about her in the Scripture, but Christ talked with her on a one-to-one basis, just like he talks with us. We can learn two lessons from her story. Jesus is willing to give the water of eternal life to everyone, even our enemies and if we accept that water of life, we will never thirst again. We may thirst for water on this earth, but our thirst for eternal life is over. We are forgiven and saved to be with Him someday. We don’t need something special to draw that water. All we need to do is pray. It can’t get much easier.



*“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”
Matthew 11:24*



Prayer: Dear Lord, you have filled our cup many times in many ways. Help us to know that you have given us the “living water” and then help us to help fill the cups of others and always remember to be thankful for what you have given us. Amen

1. Have you even been given something by a total stranger or a friend who is just being nice? What was your reaction?
2. How can we be more thankful for those who give so willingly without asking in return?
3. Have you received the “life water” that was given to the woman at the well?
4. Or are you still searching? Can you recognize the one with “living water” and say “Thank You, Lord” and know you will never thirst again?

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