

Living Water

Brief intro

- Good morning!!
- Share about Easter weekend
- As we all know...Cape Town is in a water crisis!!
- Now how bad the crisis is... depends on who you ask...(show Time quote)
- Now why is running out of water a crisis?... because we need water to live...
 - Out of all the water on earth... less than 1% can be used to drink...
 - Your bones are 30% water... and your brain is 70% water...(Some of us it's a bit more)
 - We need it to live...
- Many of you here may have only become acutely aware of the crisis since it has affected you personally, but I think we need to stay in crisis mode until every South African has convenient access to this necessity – right?
- Now since God created water...he knows how cool it is...
- And He was sure to use it in His story...
 - Water separated Israel from freedom (and Moses led them through it with the mighty hand of God with him)
 - Water cleansed the earth of evil in the time of Noah
 - Water is symbolic of life
 - And is the point where our sins are washed away...
- I remember trying to get my heart ready to get baptized... that water was scary stuff...
- Had to count the cost... am I ready to surrender everything?
- But once you are there... it is another water that dominates...
 - A water that was described by Jesus as “living water” –
 - ...and we will look at that today

Lets pray..

John 4 (explain situation leading up – Samaritan woman asking for water)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you **living water**.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “**Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**”

Jesus uses the fact that they were at a well to make some powerful statements...

Some clues about this water...

- If you drink water... you will get thirsty again...
- But I have “**living water**” to give...will cause you to “**never thirst**” ... because “**the water I give...will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**”
- Jesus is saying to her... yes water is important...
 - ...But what I can offer you is so much more!!
- I love water.... But the water that I really want is living water...
 - I have gone after other ways to quench my thirst...
 - They don't work...
- You have got to figure out how to have in you...“**a spring of water welling up to eternal life**”
 - That's what matters!
 - And God knows!!
 - And people around you know!!
 - Are you drinking water from a tap...
 - Or are you drinking living water...
- Living water....
 - You can see it in the worship...
 - You can hear it in the prayers...
 - You feel it when you read the scriptures....

Jesus makes another statement about living water a bit later in John 7

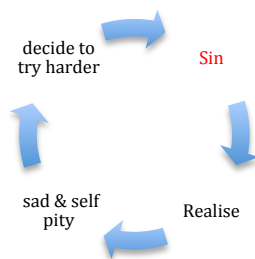
John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers of living water will flow from within them.**” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Sometimes we can get stuck in a religious cycle...

Where we mess up and look to religion to rescue us...

Have you ever been here (draw)



Sometimes we can be deceived that feeling sorry for what we have done is enough

- Or we get into a destructive cycle of self pity...
- And decide to do better... but that only lasts for a while...
- And how easy it is to go back...
- Now... I have been in this cycle...
- I'm sure many of you can relate to this cycle...
- But this is not Jesus's master plan for your life...
- This is stagnant water...
- Jesus said... **"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them"** (draw exit to Living Water)
- The problem with the stagnant water is that it feels like being a disciple...
- Since there is a movement towards change... but it is not using God... it is using your own strength...
- See you can produce effort... but you cannot produce LIVING WATER... that comes from God...
- We will talk a bit more about this later... but understand that this is not for the few... Jesus offers this to EVERYONE who believes in him
- In John 3 he says...

"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**"

- Your baptism was an event... an occasion that we could attend and there were probably pictures....
- The physical water you were baptized in had some form of container (a pool, a bath, a river, the ocean...)
- Your spiritual rebirth is not an event... and cannot be contained...
- The word "Spirit" literally means "breath / wind"
 - **The Hebrew word** for "spirit" (**ruah**) can also mean wind, breath (old Testament)
 - **The Greek word** in the New Testament is "**pneuma**" (Pneumonia is an infection of the "lung" - breath)
- Do you see that being born of the "breath of God" is not the same as coming to church
- Jesus said..."You hear their sound... but cannot tell where they came from"
- **"So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**

Apply

Where a sermon like this gets tricky is answering the question “how?”

Yes you may see the need to break out of a bad cycle

Yes you may hear these words...

You cannot save yourself or find any form of spiritual maturity from just doing hard work....

I have tried... my ideas get bigger but my heart gets smaller...

This, is the curse of the Pharisees who had great intentions, but did not drink from the right spring...

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- I think we can get confused about Day Zero...
 - Yes as a city we don't want to run out of water...
 - But as disciples... the day zero we should be most afraid of... is running out of living water...
 - And from my experience, probably the biggest enemy to your stream of living water is a spade...
 - Lets look at the Old Testament here..
 - In [Jeremiah 17:13](#) the prophet says to God:
[Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of **living water**.](#)
 - He speaks long ago of those who will forsake the living water
 - But, in fact, earlier Jeremiah says something powerful about how we can do it...

[Jeremiah 2:13](#)

[“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of **livingwater**, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold **water**.](#)

- A “Cistern” is like a well... Especially in dry areas, these pits were dug for water storage
- Today – a water tank is called a cistern
- Jeremiah saying....
 - you had my living water... but you decided to dig your own well!!!
 - You wanted to do things your own way...
 - Rely on your own strength...
 - Get your worth and motivation from
 - Your work...
 - Your family...
 - From hobbies and things...
 - From coffee and food and series
 - God says: “I am the living water” ... later we read Jesus saying “I am the living water”...
 - THAT’S where we must go

When we struggle it is our biggest need to seek living water...
But also the time when it is so easy to dig our own cistern..

But I take course from Paul in [2 Cor 4:8-18](#) as he describes his pressure... and his source of strength...

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."^[b] Since we have that same spirit of^[c] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- When you are feeling overwhelmed by work...
 - seek the living water to renew you day by day
- When you are feeling lonely...
 - seek the living water to renew you day by day
- When your relationships are weak...
 - seek the living water to renew you day by day
- When you feel like giving up...
 - seek the living water to renew you day by day
- When sin has you around the neck...
 - seek the living water to renew you day by day

In revelation, we have a final word on water... [Revelation 7:16-17](#)

'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,'^[a]
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

'he will **lead them to springs of living water.**'^[b]

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'^[c]"

- Now these words are meant to be encouraging...
- But I also see them as warnings! – "don't miss out"
 - The lamb is at the centre of the throne...
 - He will lead those in his presence to springs of living water...

- Don't spend time here digging your own wells
 - What are you thinking!!?
 - Let him lead you to springs of living water
- Let us close with this from a few chapters later in Revelations...

Revelations 21:5-7

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Brothers... not by your own strength... but by living water...
Let us drink and never be thirsty... Amen..

