



Jesus and A Scarlet Letter Woman
John 4:1-30, 39-42
Pastor Mike Chapman

Today I would like to introduce you to YOU...and to ME. You see this person that we read about in John 4 is each of us. She is a thirsty soul. We can all relate.

Thirst is a reoccurring theme in the Bible. In Isaiah 55:1, God invites the thirsty to come and freely drink of His water.

Since the rebellion of our first ancestors, spiritual thirst is a part of the human experience. It represents the deep longings in the human spirit. We all long for something outside of ourselves.

JESUS WAS NO ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

On this day, Jesus is breaking huge cultural **taboos**.

Hundreds of years of bad blood separated them.

Race, religion, recollection, and reputation were against this encounter ever taking place.

Jesus only had one thing on this mind: rescuing a person who was drowning in **thirst**.

Five things Jesus said about the water he offers:

It is a **gift** of God.

It is **living** water.

If you drink it, you will **never thirst again.**

This water becomes a **spring of water.**

This water gives **eternal life.**

John 4:15, Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty again and will not have to come back here to get more water. (NCV)

A WILD GOOSE CHASE...OR IS IT?

Jesus leaves the imagery of living water and moves into her **real struggle** when he mentions her personal life.

He brings her face to face with her secret, inner self.

He does this to make her **aware** of her real thirst.

What he is offering is water that you don't drink with your **mouth** but your **heart**.

She attempts to divert the conversation to a controversy of her day: **Where are we supposed to worship?**

Jesus is willing to go to her topic but not to her issue.

John 4:23, The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. (NCV)

Jesus is seeking her in order to satisfy her thirst with life and light.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE THIRST

At the center of our lives, we are born with the longing for **security** and **significance**.

God uses our longings as a basis of his **call** to us.

John 7:37, If any man is thirsty let him come to me and drink. (NIV)

Jesus never condemns our longings.

Whatever satisfies our longings will become our **god**.

Jeremiah 2:13, You, my people, have sinned in two ways-- you have rejected me, the source of life-giving water, and you've tried to collect water in cracked and leaking pits dug in the ground. (CEV)

Life is a quest for satisfaction – a search for a “god.”

Satisfaction found in a false god will only be **temporary** and thus **enslaving**.

Proverbs 27:7, He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet. (NIV)

Revelation 22:17, Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (ESV)