*The Real Thirst Quencher*

**The Story of the Samaritan Woman as Told by a Neighbor**

She came running into town screaming, "He told me all that I have done! Quick, everyone, come, see a man who told me all that I have done."... Let me put the situation into perspective. "Leah" was not well-liked in Sychar, a town near Samaria. She had married several times, and gave up marriage altogether. To be honest, we treated her like she had a plague. She always went to our ancestor Jacob's well in the early evening when no one else would be there. But that night as she ran into town, something was different. Normally, everyone would have ignored her but something drew us to listen to her as she recounted the story...

"I went to the well to fill my waterpot and I saw a Jewish man waiting there. He asked me to give him a drink. I was shocked that a Jew would be sitting at our ancestor Jacob's well, and asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink (for Jews had no dealings with Samaritans). He told me, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you. Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” He didn't even have a bucket to draw water! I figured that he was a prophet.

Then, he told me that everyone who drinks the physical water would thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that he will give shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that he will give will become in the person a spring of water gushing up into eternal life.

There was something in his words that captivated me. I had even forgotten that he was a Jew. He wasn't speaking as an enemy. In fact, I have never heard any man speak in such a way. All that I could say was that I wanted this water that quenches my thirst. But he proceeded to tell me all about myself. He knew that I was immoral. He knew that I had married five husbands and was now living with a man. But he didn't despise me. It's hard to describe the feeling he gave me.

I questioned him about worship because surely, he was a prophet from God. I expected him to defend his Jewish religion against my Samaritan beliefs. But he told me that “an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.”

At that moment I did not understand all that he was saying to me, but, somehow, I realized that he was the Messiah! And then, he plainly told me that he is! So, I ran here as fast as I could to tell everyone."

As Leah spoke, within me and many others, an urge compelled us to follow her to this man and see for ourselves. When we arrived at the well, this man, Jesus, was there. We invited him to stay with us in Sychar, and although he was a Jew, he said he would be delighted.

He spoke from Deuteronomy 12, which all Samaritans are familiar with. According to Moses' word there, God should be worshiped in the place chosen by God. He told us that this is no longer a physical place as it was to the Jews, but is now the human spirit, and unless man exercises his human spirit he is unable to touch God; for God is spirit, and no one can worship Him except in spirit. He said that if we engage anything other than our human spirit, we shall altogether fail to worship. I had never known that I could not worship God simply with my mind, my emotion, or my will.

On one hand, Jesus' words were so new, yet, on the other hand they were like drinking thirst-quenching, refreshing water. It sounded so wonderful that God would actually take up His habitation inside of men and women through the human spirit. We told Leah that it was no longer because of her speaking that we believe, for we ourselves have heard and know that this One is truly the Savior of the world.

Jesus looked at us as if he had just enjoyed a rich feast. He was satisfied, and so were we! We had all drank of the living water.

CTR *[Based on John 4]*