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## “OUR LEAKING CUPS”

BY PASTOR JOHN HILLMER

“Our Leaking Cups”

(Gospel reading: John 4:5 – 42)

We could spend all day “dwelling in the Word” and letting down our buckets to draw water from the deep well of this wonderful story.

But in short, it says: there is NO ONE that God doesn’t love; NO ONE that Jesus doesn’t embrace; NOTHING that can keep us from Grace. (God’s Grace) NOTHING.

WATER

BREAD

WORD



*"...our forever leaking cups".*

***"We come again and again to that Fountain, with our forever leaking cups".*** G K Chesterton

"That Fountain of Living Water"      -- is not a mirage!      -- In the desert.

LIFE can be a desert. A journey

A wilderness journey. A solitary wilderness journey.



amazing **GRACE**  
**LUTHERAN**  
Here. For you.

For the woman at the well...her wilderness had been, not so much of the physical kind, but the relational kind. Shunned. Sidelined. Avoided.



A solitary, wilderness, journey.

As a Samaritan, a woman, and a woman who has been married multiple times, she has every reason to believe that her life will remain exactly as it is; a desert. A lonely journey through the desert.

Jesus meets her at the well. And shows her that God is up to something new.

Starts with an ordinary request: Jesus asks for a drink. But – not ordinary.

She sees this; and KNOWS it is a transgression of boundaries. Man speaking w/ woman.

Jew talking with Samaritan. An upright person talking with an outcast. She knows. Wall goes up.

But Jesus grabs the opportunity – he speaks of a different kind of water.

amazing **GRACE**  
**LUTHERAN**  
Here. For you.



...a **“Living Water”**. Water that will quench all thirst.

“We come to that living fountain, with our forever leaning cups”. *G.K. Chesterton*

amazing **GRACE**  
**LUTHERAN**  
Here. For you.



(such a descriptive picture – of the human condition. The “human life”)

We keep running out.

We get ‘empty’.

Our thirst returns.

But we know where to go. To the water that never fails.

Jesus pushes the conversation further. “...neither on this mountain; nor on that one...”.  
Speaking of a time when the rifts between God’s people will be healed. “God is Spirit” -- and  
therefore, this is what God wants from all his People – to “worship together... in Spirit and in  
truth”.



“Spirituality” can be a unifying thing. (It SHOULD be a unifying thing)

“Worship” and “prayer” can unite us, and draw us together, because everyone of us is a creature of God’s making - “Body, Mind, and Spirit”. For “such it is the Father seeks – to worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman has an inkling of this. She too have been waiting for the Messiah. And then...everything changes! This is the turning point of the story – the apex of history. “I AM HE”. The One who is speaking to you.

From this moment...everything changes. Her story changes; her life changes. Our perspective changes.

She was an “outsider” - but no longer.”

She was alone - now she is part of the family. Welcomed with the gift of living water.

And in this moment, John (the Gospel writer) invites us to forget for a moment that we know the rest of the story. Instead, we stand un-judgingly alongside this woman; thrilled in this moment of a once-forgotten/ostracized person, hearing – seeing – feeling that she is loved and valued. (She has a voice!) And that “Messiah has come” not only in ‘general’ – but he has come (specifically) for HER!

As we delight in this moment – the living water renews US. (Our baptism renews us.)

We are refreshed, renewed, engaged and empowered to live in the life of Jesus.

We are reminded NOT to react like the disciples.

John – the Gospel writer – gives voice to their unspoken thoughts: “Why are you speaking with her?”

\*Too often, these thoughts roll through our minds. Yes Jesus – we know you love all people, but surely you don’t mean people like THAT.)

The woman is real; actual, factual and historical.

And she also stands for all people - still at the well in the mid-day heat -- those written off by society; those who are shunned; looking in from the outside.

The Gospel drives us towards them with hope and welcome.

(“Glenda” - who come to dinner last Wednesday night – Lenten dinner. Welcomed at the



table by Women of Grace ( Liz, Dianna, Brenda, Lois, ) She came to Grace; she ate & drank & worshipped. She found respite at the Spirit.

In Christ, all division is transcended and healed. We are to reach out to those who yearn to have their thirst quenched, and satisfied.

Our thirst – our emptiness is satisfied at the Cross.

But sometimes we forget the journey TO the Cross.

The terrain that Jesus had to travel. The terrain the Jesus chose to travel.

Jesus traveled through Samaria.

Jesus had to go through Samaria. (V.4 says) People didn't usually go that way; in fact, they avoided it. But there goes Jesus, crossing borders, not behaving in PC manner, breaking cultural and religious taboos.

Going places! "Places" he didn't have to go to, or shouldn'ta gone to... But there he goes!

Just like his journey to the cross and grave -- crossing the border between life and death, breaking the bonds of evil one, crushing hell under foot. And oh yes, establishing his covenant, giving light to the righteous, and showing forth the resurrection.

Ah, the glory of our divine God!

May God fill us with love,  
renews us in grace,  
and send us , refreshed, into the world. Amen.