

# *Well Run Dry*

November 11, 2015

Oasis: Self-Guided Prayer

Take a deep breath. Give thanks for God's presence. Ask God to open your heart and your mind to anything you might need today. May your time with our Holy Creator be a time of restoration, peace, and enlightenment.

Jesus had been traveling and had become weary. He was in Samaria and had come upon a woman at Jacob's well to whom he asked for water. The conversation continues as Jesus shares with her the Living Water he has to offer. To this she replied:

*'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.'*  
*Jesus replied, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again'*

(John 4:6-14).

This woman had been taught about Jacob's well and the water it provided for generations. She herself had drawn water from this well in order to live, but Jesus spoke radically against this water source saying he had something better. Jesus spoke of a thirst that is quenched by the water of Life that he offers.

How often do we go to sources other than Jesus to quench our thirst? Our families have taught us specific customs or habits that are said to satisfy our thirst, but do they?

Does working overtime every week give us the recognition we crave or the applaud we desire? Does volunteering for every committee and non-profit organization give us a deeper self-worth? Do exercising and dieting to an obsession give us the self-esteem we so desperately want? Does the money we make fill the void we feel so deep inside our soul?

Just like the Samaritan woman we have wells that do not give us living water and we can become protective of them. We say, "Are you greater than \_\_\_\_\_?" Sometimes we need to be reminded that the places we *think* we are drawing life in fact do not give us life at all.

What is your well? From where are you drawing your strength? Is it in other people's affirmations or opinions? Or are you drawing your strength from the Living Water of Jesus Christ?

Jesus says "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again."

Ask God to reveal to you the wells from which you draw, or maybe they are coming to mind as you read. Which of these wells lead to life? Which lead you to thirst?

Rest in the knowledge that Jesus is always calling us to come to Him and to drink the Living Water.

There is a font up front full of water and rocks beside it. If you are needing to let go of some dry wells in your life you are invited to come forward and drop a rock into this fountain as a symbol of letting go of these areas that we try to fill our souls, but come up dry. Be excited that the Spirit has shown you the mirage of this life-promising well and that this does not define you or keep you from Christ's living water.

As you came in you received a bottle of water. Take a sip of this cool water, remember that the Living Water of Christ is even better than this. Jesus gives us life eternal and gives us a life to live right now that is showered in His love and grace. Thanks be to God that we are invited into a life rich with God's presence.

The altar is open for prayer. Feel free to come forward as you desire.