

## ARE YOUR WELLS PLUGGED UP?

Text: Genesis 26:12-22

**Key Word:** Wells

**Key Thought:** Refreshing Wells in Our Lives Can Dry up

Wells in our western society have basically become just a need for those country folk. In some of our old country homes we used to say with a twinkle in our eyes that we had "**running water**" - You would have to run to the well to get it.

\*\*\* Around 30 years ago we helped build a home for Sharon's parents during our holidays. Since it was a country home, they needed a well. Instead of us digging a hole in the ground, a fully equipped drilling rig was used.

Within a few hours they hit the water vein. It was then only a matter of installing the piping system that would direct the water to the suction of the indoor pump and filter system. \*\*\*

Anyone raised in the city with instant purified, chlorinated and sometimes fluorinated water cannot usually appreciate the value of their daily fresh water. **It's interesting how just a generation or two can change our attitudes toward our needs.** In arid parts of the East today, water can become as precious as gold.

Bedouin tribesmen still dispute fiercely over who inherits the wells. The well would become part of a family's rich heritage. Many wells were named after heads of the families (i.e. Jacob's well), especially if something important happened in the course of digging the well.

Therefore, a well often linked a family with its past (roots) Often an entire land area of a family was determined by the wells located on their property. When certain nomadic families came into an area not their own, they would often fill the wells with ground to force them to leave. This would cause great hardship on the rightful owners of the land. A major part of their inheritance would be taken from them.

**I believe that the enemies of God's people have filled up SOME of our life-giving wells.** It has caused great hardship. We've begun to wonder if the land is really ours. We've sometimes symbolically thought it is better to move on where we've convinced ourselves there is no enemy instead of being determined to dig up the old wells or even dig new wells.

**I. BETHLEHEM'S WELL (II Samuel 23:16)**

**II. BACA WELL (Psalm 84:6)**

**III. JACOB'S WELL (John 4:6)**

## I. BETHLEHEM'S WELL (II Samuel 23:16)

*"So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD."*

*II Samuel 23:16*

The name "**Bethlehem**" ("*the house of bread*") brings many warm thoughts to our minds. The famed city of David was earlier called Ephrath (Genesis 35:19), the burial place of Jacob's wife Rachel. It became known as Bethlehem Judah or Bethlehem Ephrathah to distinguish it from the Bethlehem located 11 km NW of Nazareth. Bethlehem Ephrathah is located 9 km south of Jerusalem.

It was the home of David's ancestors. It became a very dear place to his heart. II Samuel 23 records the final words of David as he held the position of the king of Israel. David was again fighting against the Philistines. He and his men were in what was called his stronghold (II Samuel 23:14).

He wanted to get back to Bethlehem but couldn't because the Philistines had a garrison of men there. David longed to drink from the well of his ancestors and one day he let his feelings known to his men.

*"Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem"*

*II Samuel 23:15*

His heart's desire was to get back to his roots. He probably thought of those special times as a boy shepherding his father's flock. He would have to take them to a well or stream for water. It was a quiet place. On one of these occasions he was given his famous Psalm.

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.  
2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures he leads me beside **quiet waters**  
3. he restores my soul He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name sake"*

*Psalms 23:1-3*

## I. BETHLEHEM'S WELL (II Samuel 23:16) (Contd.)

The cry of his heart was to return to the **quiet place of righteousness** even though he may have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death to get there.

Have you ever desired to get back to your roots? **Have you ever asked God to bring you back to the time when life was simple and peace reigned in your life?** If you have, you can liken it to drinking from Bethlehem's well.

It was in Bethlehem 2000 years ago that a greater king was born. He was of the lineage of David but a Greater King. The greatest King ever born. If you've got away from drinking from His well, you've lost the meaning of life and you must return.

The Philistines controlled access to Bethlehem's well. We have modern Philistines that have filled the Bethlehem well of our lives with ground or covered it or even guarded it so we cannot drink from it. Three of David's mighty men put their life in danger to draw water from the well of Bethlehem.

David's heart was deeply touched by their loyalty. He didn't simply throw it away. **He made a sacrifice of a drink offering to the Lord.** It meant so much to him that he gave back to God.

## II. BACA WELL (Psalm 84:6)

*"Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools."*

*Psalm 84:6 KJV*

Come with me on a pilgrimage to another well. It requires passing through a very difficult time in your life as well. This time it is not a people who strike a blow at you but rather circumstances of life.

Life has certain laws that can only be changed by miracles. We have the law of gravity. The Bible has what is called the "law of sowing and reaping." The valley of Baca is a difficult valley to go through. **"Baca" means "weeping."** It was a dry place - a wilderness with little shade or means of supporting life.

## II. BACA WELL (Psalm 84:6) (Cond.)

Our nation and the nations of our world are treading through this valley right now. Unemployment is high, bankruptcies are on the rise. In an attempt to survive this dry time people are holding everything they own and are very cautious in much of their spending.

Some have had to walk through the valley of death lately. It was a place of weeping and great sorrow. A place of loss. It's sometime hard to find anyone who can really understand what you're going through.

It's a time when you can do one of two things. **You can either give up and die alongside the others that have fallen before getting what they need or determine in your heart to make a difference.** It all begins again with a deep desire.

*"My soul yearns even faints for the courts of the  
Lord! my heart and my flesh cry out for the living  
God."*

*Psalms 84:2*

The Psalmist looked ahead to a time when he would again meet God in His temple. The people on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem could strongly identify with David. They couldn't wait to get back to the house of God. They set out on a pilgrimage.

They didn't know what they were walking into. Their hearts were right but the walk became very difficult and dry. Here is the point when you can actually live or die.

The Psalmist encouraged the people to dig a well (KJV). Get back to the resource for life. Life is all around but it will take an effort to get to it. The reason that many die here is that they don't want to make an effort to endure. They give up. It's going to take some digging but you must do it to survive.

If everyone who has difficulty digs a well, then the ones who come behind you will not suffer but will gain from your efforts. **It doesn't make sense to selfishly fill in a well that was so needed and not allow others the benefit from it.** You may have to travel that part of the road again.

### III. JACOB'S WELL (John 4:6)

*"Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour."*

John 4:6

Jesus had just traveled a dry land when He knew He had to enter Samaria. **He was weary with travel.** The time was 12:00 noon. The sun was hot and it was time to rest.

Most people gathered their water in the cool of the evening but **this woman chose a time when few and possibly none would travel to the well.** Perhaps she was ashamed of herself because of her lifestyle.

Jacob met his wife at a well. Abraham's servant Eleazar found a bride for Isaac at the well. I wonder as they sat beside Jacob's well if she thought that she had finally met the man who would meet all her needs. She was probably perplexed that Jesus would ever consider talking to her.

Her past left nothing for her to draw upon except that she felt a distant link to Judaism through their worship of the same God. Mount Gerzim stood in the distance as a reminder of the center of worship. **Jesus wasn't interested in the peaks of paganism.** He recognized that she was thirsty for life.

Sychar is only mentioned once in the New Testament. It was off the beaten track for Jews. It was found along the *"broadway that leads to destruction."* Samaritans were people of a mixed origin that were brought back by the Babylonians to take the place of the exiled Jews. For their own safety they acknowledged Jehovah as God amongst their other gods. They chose to support the Jews only if it was to their favour. **They would play whatever side gained them the most.**

**This woman was typical of the result of such a compromised life.** She had searched for many years for a relationship but failed to find one. She was not looking for the *"house of bread"* or *"house of God."* She just wanted the *"house of man"* - any man! Jesus - the son of Man stood ready to point her to the truth. **The well became the focal point of their conversation.**

**It's very difficult for a compromiser to understand that they have a need.** They also find it difficult to believe that anyone can meet their need. They've been on a dead end road of trying to meet other people's needs when they themselves are in need. These people are often on the defense. So any offer Jesus would make needed to be exceptional.

### III. JACOB'S WELL (John 4:6) (Contd.)

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.*

*14. but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

*John 4:13,14*

Many people have drunk of Jacob's well and never come to a place of satisfaction. Jacob himself was a deceiver. He continued to strive for HIS best. It brought him nothing but problems.

This woman had been drinking of Jacob's well long enough. It was her only touchstone of truth and life yet she constantly missed the mark. This well has been filled up in many people's lives with all kinds of dirt. Jesus knew it was useless to try to clean out the **well of deceitfulness** and then get a good drink from it.

*"Everyone who drinks from this water (Jacob's well) will be thirsty again."*

*John 4:13*

There is a better well. It is the well of life. Only God could offer it. It is eternal life. You won't gain it by trying to convince God that you worship on the right mountain. It's not where you worship . . . it's how and Who you worship. Some who worship on the "right mountain" are still living in deceit. God wants us to worship in . . .

*"spirit and in truth."*

*John 4:23,24*

Has God through this message brought you to a place where you need to make a decision? Are you standing before one of these symbolic wells today?

**Bethlehem's?**

**Baca's?**

**Jacob's?**

Has it been despitely filled up? Does your life need a good drink from the hand of God? If that is your heart's desire, come and receive from God. He wants to offer you rivers of life that will quench any desire that you may have!

Mar 7/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Spirt of the Living God (Fall Afresh on Me)

### **JESUS IS PASSING THIS WAY**

Is there a heart that is waiting,  
Longing for pardon today?  
Hear the glad message proclaiming,  
Jesus is passing this way.

#### Refrain

Jesus is passing this way,  
This way, today;  
Jesus is passing this way,  
Is passing this way today.

Is there a heart that has wandered?  
Come with thy burden today;  
Mercy is tenderly pleading,  
Jesus is passing this way.

#### Refrain

Is there a heart that is broken?  
Weary and sighing for rest?  
Come to the arms of the Savior,  
Pillow thy head on His breast.

#### Refrain

Come to thy only Redeemer,  
Come to His infinite love;  
Come to the gate that is leading  
Homeward to mansions above.

#### Refrain

Fanny Crosby (Words)  
Howard Doane (Music)  
1895

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**I believe that the enemies of God's people have filled up SOME of our life-giving wells.**

### **I. BETHLEHEM'S WELL (II Samuel 23:16)**

*II Samuel 23:16; Genesis 35:19; II Samuel 23:14; II Samuel 23:15; Psalm 23:1-3*

### **II. BACA WELL (Psalm 84:6)**

*Psalm 84:6 KJV; Psalm 84:2*

### **III. JACOB'S WELL (John 4:6)**

*John 4:6; John 4:13,14; John 4:13; John 4:23,24*