



Sunday, January 6, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to John 4

It's good to begin a new year by thinking about drawing near to Christ. Certainly, the story in John 4 of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well is striking on so many levels, but perhaps most importantly is His insistence that it is He alone who can provide her with the satisfaction she is looking for. We all have ways we look for satisfaction in other, lesser things, but the pattern of the Christian life is continuing to come back to Him and remember that He is the Source of all good things we enjoy.

My prayer, as we begin this new year, is that we will renew our devotion to Jesus as Lord, remembering that He is also our Creator and Savior—the One who made us and sustains us. He has not drawn us to Himself on any merits of our own. Like the Samaritan woman, we have all done things of which we ought to be ashamed because they have offended God and hurt others. But, by His grace, He continues to call us back to Himself. So, let us drink deeply from Him this year!

Context

John 4 is a familiar passage to many people. It is often preached in conjunction with some other teaching on evangelism because Jesus lays out a helpful method for us to follow in that regard. However, chapter 4, like much of the Gospel of John, is intended to draw our attention to Jesus' all-sufficiency by using a metaphor or image (in this case, water). Jesus is likened to water, not simply in that He sustains life, but that He is superior to water because when we come to Him, we find true, lasting satisfaction that not even water can provide to our physical bodies. The image of water comes up again, as Pastor Don noted, in chapter 7, when Jesus makes His dramatic speech at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read John 4:1-15; 7:37-39

“The Main Thing”

Key Ideas

- 1) In our fast-paced culture, we often do not take the time to care for our own souls.
- 2) Only Jesus can provide the satisfaction we’re looking for.
- 3) Jesus went against protocol to introduce Himself to the Samaritan woman and He breaks protocol to introduce Himself to us needy sinners.
- 4) We must drink deeply from Jesus every day until He affects the way we think and talk and walk.
- 5) Communion visualizes drinking of Christ. Jesus’ real presence is in the Lord’s Supper by faith.
- 6) To drink deeply means to believe.
- 7) The Church’s job is to introduce the thirsty to living water.

Discuss

- 1) Where do you find your deepest satisfaction in life?
- 2) What are your habits when it comes to “soul care” or spending time with the Lord?
- 3) What is the biggest threat to you spending time with Jesus on a daily basis?
- 4) How can you encourage or challenge other believers to be more disciplined in spending time with Jesus?
- 5) How can you share what you’re learning about Jesus with a non-Christian friend or family member?