JESUS THE LIVING WATER

1. What our Savior does for us  
2. What our Savior now asks to do for him

Remember the children’s nursery rhyme about Humpty-Dumpty? He sat on a wall and had a great fall and broke into tiny, little pieces. It ends with: All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty-Dumpty back together again.

I still see Humpty-Dumpty everyday in the world. I see it in my own life. I see it among the people of God, young and old, whom I serve here. Great falls into shameful sins, despair, and false beliefs. I see lives shattered because of alcohol and drug abuse, sexual immorality and unfaithfulness, selfishness, hatred, and pride. Yes, we live in a Humpty-Dumpty world.

Sometimes you and I are the Humpty-Dum-ptyys - sinful human beings who get broken into pieces and need to be put back together again.

The Humpty-Dumpty story tells us that can never happen, but not with Jesus. You see, what all the king's horses and all the king's men could never do, the King of kings can do! Today God’s Word teaches us that. The Holy Spirit lets us eavesdrop on a conversation that took place at a well between this King and one of those Humpty-Dumptys. As we listen in, we hear two precious truths: what our Savior does for us and what our Savior now asks us to do for him.

Give me a drink. That is how this tired and thirsty stranger began a conversation with a Samaritan woman who had come to this well to fill her water jars. The question took her by surprise. Even though Samaritans had some Jewish blood in them, the Jews considered them half-breeds at best and despised them. The Samaritans accepted the first five books of the Old Testament as their Bible, but they also included all kinds of heathen practices in their religion. Jews despised Samaritans and they did everything possible to avoid associating with them, even traveling miles out of their way rather than set foot in Samaria.

But not Jesus! We are told: He had to go through Samaria. The Savior had to go through Samaria because he knew there was a Humpty Dumpty there whose life was in shambles. Jesus knew her life story before he had ever spoke to her. Five failed marriages, a live-in boyfriend, and a worldly attitude that one religion was as good as the next. Yet Jesus did not turn away from her in disgust. He was going to lead her to see in him much more than just some friendly Jewish man who was tired and thirsty.

Jesus turned the conversation to spiritual matters: If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. The stranger's words fascinate this woman because Jacob’s well was filled with rain water. Jesus offered her living water which literally means running water. She wanted that water. Was he greater than Jacob? Jesus then said to her: Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life. Knowing Jesus and trusting in him as Savior is what gives sinners a spring of water bubbling up to eternal life!

This Samaritan woman still thought Jesus was talking about some kind of water that would save her trips to the well everyday. Jesus gets very personal with her. He touches the sore spots by bringing the full force of God's Law to bear on her sinful life. Jesus asks her: Go call your husband! This woman had lived life her way and it left her thirsty - a Humpty-Dumpty life that was messed up and needed help. Jesus' knowledge of her sinful life led her to this conclusion which was also a confession of her sins: I see that you are a prophet.
In a sincere desire for forgiveness, she now raises an important issue. Where should she worship God? Where should she go to seek his mercy? Before this conversation, it made no difference to her what ch she went to. One religion was as good as another. The Samaritans worshiped on Mt Gerizim and the Jews insisted on Jerusalem. She now hopes this prophet will help her to seek God correctly.

And help her he did: **Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming and now is here when the real worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. Jesus is teaching her, together with all of us, that we worship God properly when we worship him in truth – that is, according to everything he has told us about himself and his Son on the pages of the Bible.**

She said: **I know that Messiah is coming (the one called Christ). When he comes, he will explain everything to us.** Apparently, she knew about the promise God had made to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.

Then Jesus declared: **I, the one speaking to you, am he.** At that moment the Holy Spirit took hold of this woman by the well and she became the woman with the well - the well of water that gave her forgiveness and salvation, and a new life through faith in this Jesus as her Savior!

My friends, Jesus may not he sitting beside a well anymore, but from his throne in heaven, he is looking into each of our lives. Jesus can see the thirsty sinners who are here. Jesus can see all of the Humpty-Dumptys among us with broken lives that have been shattered by sin. Jesus knows about all our regrets, all our sinful moments, all our failures. Jesus sees those sins we figure we have kept hidden from everybody else. Jesus knows about what is been going on behind closed doors in our family life. Jesus sees the bad feelings we have toward others. Jesus saw us when we went to certain places and did those things nobody else may know about. Jesus touches all those sore spots of my life and yours.

Our sinful nature hates it when Jesus does that. So we make excuses or try to change the subject. But as long as we do that, we are always going to be thirsty. But Jesus gets real personal with us. He comes to us in his Word and says: **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us** and he also says: **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** That is some kind of Savior, isn't it?

Jesus declares: **I, the one speaking to you, am he.** Remember this **HE** is the one who died on the cross and rose from the dead! He is the Savior who forgives all our sins, who has power for godly living every day. He is the Savior who promises a life with him that lasts forever on the other side of the cemetery. This is the Savior who says to every Humpty-Dumpty listening to his voice this morning: **Whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life.** That is water you do not just sip every once in a while. That is water you gulp down daily. That is water you splash over each and every part of your life. Drink deeply fr this **well** called Jesus! Drink deeply and really live!

This woman by the well who was led to see Jesus as her Savior did something pretty special before the day was over. It is something our Savior also asks us to do for him. We are told: **Then the woman left her water jar and went back into town. She said to the people, Come, see the man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ? They left the town and came to him. Many Samaritans from that town believed in him**
because of the woman’s testimony: He told me everything I ever did. So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them. And he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message. They told the woman, We no longer believe because of what you said. Now we have heard for ourselves. And we know that this really is the Savior of the world.

Compare this lady and her neighbors with the people we meet every day. Are some of those people worldly-minded, with a disregard for the sanctity of marriage, and who think one religion is as good as next? Like those Samaritans, they too are precious souls whom Jesus wants us to bring to him. He wants us to use those daily life situations to bring others to him, just like he did. Jesus wants us to be kind to people regardless of their gender, social status, or skin color, just like he did, so that we can lead others. Jesus wants us to turn that small talk about sports and the weather into serious conversations about eternal matters, just like he did.

That means when we share our faith, we bring up the topic of sin, just like he did. Our lives are surrounded with people who sin, people who are living with someone who is not their real husband or wife, people who think one church is pretty much the same as another. Talk frankly with these people. We cannot be afraid to point out their sins. There is foul language around you, greed, materialism, warped ideas about what is right and wrong, false religions and the miserable mixed up lives people are living. You and I are Jesus' representatives in this world. Jesus pointed out sin because he loved souls. With courage and with love, we will want to do that too. You see, no one will ever know they need a Savior named Jesus unless they first know that they are lost and condemned sinners without him.

Speak the truth in love. Now, when we share our faith, sometimes we can make our religion sound like it is something we have to do for God. You have to go to Sunday School and Confirmation classes to be confirmed. You have to go to church. You have to lead a better life and so on. But true religion is what God has done for us. He has already accepted us poor sinners for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and innocent death in our place. God loved us first.

So when we share our faith, we share Jesus! We give somebody a drink of eternal life. Like this woman we say: Come and see a Savior who knows about all our sins and forgives us! Give somebody a drink of eternal life. That will change their thirst for the things of this world into a thirst for a treasure that'll never pass away. You see, when you give Jesus to a thirsty soul, all those other things like worship and godly living will come naturally as thanksgiving.

So share Jesus with others. As you seek to quench the spiritual thirst of others, do not lose your thirst for the Gospel yourself. Whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. So drink from your Jesus everyday and then share your Jesus every chance you get. Amen.

Pastor Keith Bilitz  
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Alma City  
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Smiths Mill  
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Clair