

## Show the Video of the Water Diviner digging a Well.

<https://youtu.be/fyBliQboYzl>

### Digging your own Wells. Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

John 4:1-26

Genesis 26:17 – 25

Deut 6:10- 12

#### **Introduction:**

Last Sunday we heard from Paul the most significant message I have heard about the passage in James 2 that talks about the juxtaposition of Faith and Works.

Today I want to try and capitalise on it and get us thinking and working toward fulfilling this truth in our own lives.

#### **The best defence is attack, we need to be a people of promise not just a people under pressure.**

We live in a weird time in History, we take things for granted, things previous generations had to fight for, to work for, to dig for.

We get upset when the street is blocked off and we must walk a block to get our coffee. We drop our phone and smash the screen...

#### **We feel inconvenienced by things that are actually a privilege.**

Not many decades ago, if you wanted something, you had to work for it. Food, Shelter, warmth, love, all these things required us to work to survive.

#### **We live in an age of entitlement where we see things as a right and not a privilege to be worked for.**

To get electricity involved digging a hole in the ground a mile deep and digging by hand coal and then burning it to produce power, or constructing a dam for years at great cost of life so we had electricity and Fresh water to drink... you had to work for it, you couldn't just turn on a tap. Even the water that fell from the sky had to have somewhere to land or it disappeared.

#### **Water is the basis of Life in the Natural world, Spiritually it is no different, it is spiritual water that enables us to survive spiritually. Without it we will die.**

We dig wells for various reasons; In a **Barren place** people would dig a well. To maintain a **constant clean supply**, To **establish themselves** they would dig a well, when they wanted to **prepare for the future** they would dig a well, when they wanted to **survive** they would dig a well. Are you in a Barren place? What do you do? Do you whinge and moan or do you dig?

The Well reaches the Water below the surface. There is a purity to it that brings life. Many don't seek it or find it because they are not prepared to dig.

Digging wells is dangerous, hard work... it is dirty, sweaty, uncomfortable at times claustrophobic and bent over, head down 4 metres in a hole you are full of fear, it is restrictive and after days of digging and not seeing a result it can seem frustrating and almost de-moralising...**but keep digging.**

We are called to be Pioneer people living in a foreign and difficult place in order to see the Gospel come to those who are lost and don't know Jesus. This is a High calling it is not simply a secondary pursuit, a convenient pastime or an optional thing in our lives...Jesus is calling workers...

#### Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

**John 4** Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—<sup>2</sup> although in fact **it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.**<sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> **Jacob's well was there,** and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

*Jacob was one of Jesus Ancestors... the fact that this well was here and had lasted so long is significant, we need to pay attention to what those who have gone before have to say, this well stood the test of time and was still bearing water and giving life...*

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to **draw water,** Jesus said to her, **"Will you give me a drink?"**<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

*(what have we got to offer if someone asks you for help? The woman had to "draw" the water, there is work involved to serve Jesus. remember the story of the "least of these")*

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.<sup>[a]</sup>)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “**If you knew the gift** of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

*“IF YOU KNEW” - When we serve others we are serving Jesus*

<sup>11</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

*The only thing we have that we should offer people and is of value is what comes from Jesus, do we ask Him to use us and our talents or do we just try to do our own thing and hope Jesus backs it?*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them **will become in them a spring** of water welling up to eternal life.”

*Is what is coming from us of eternal significance? Or are we consumed with temporal things?*

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”<sup>17</sup> “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

*Jesus reads our mail and exposes our sin, not to harm us but to heal us. In order for pure water to flow the contaminants need to be removed*

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming **and has now come** when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are

the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

<sup>17</sup> So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. <sup>18</sup> **Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham**, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

<sup>19</sup> Isaac’s servants **dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there**. <sup>20</sup> But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek,<sup>[c]</sup> because they disputed with him. <sup>21</sup> Then they **dug another well**, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>22</sup> He moved on from there and **dug another well**, and no one quarreled over it. He named it **Rehoboth**,<sup>[e]</sup> saying, “Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land.”

<sup>23</sup> From there he went up to Beersheba. <sup>24</sup> That night the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

<sup>25</sup> Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. **There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.**

Hebrews 11: 1- 6 Faith is the substance of what we hope for.

Genesis 2:2 By the seventh day God had finished the **work** he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his **work**.

Matthew 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the **workers** are few.

Matthew 10:10 no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the **worker** is worth his keep.

John 4:34 ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and **to finish his work**. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, “It’s still four months until harvest”?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying “One sows and another reaps” is true. <sup>38</sup> **I sent you to reap**

**what you have not worked for.** Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.'

God May call us to a place or to a circumstance, he may prophesy over us blessing and abundance, **but we must dig a well there.** We need to **work** at the thing God has blessed us with,

too often we are looking for blessing as a way to avoid work.

We look at others who have success and think it was easy for them, often it is because they put in the work in the first place.

In my Career I spent many years working, learning studying and trying things that failed... now I am paid primarily for what I know, for my experience rather than my sweat...but have I stopped sweating? No! because I want to continue to grow. Is it easier? No! it is just different.

**In the things of God we can cease to grow because we no longer apply ourselves to scripture. We start to think we have done enough and we have become settlers no longer Pioneers.**

Deut 6:10 - 12

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities **you did not build**,<sup>11</sup> houses filled with all kinds of good things **you did not provide**, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves **you did not plant**—then when you eat and are satisfied,<sup>12</sup> **be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

We live in the blessing of others, we are provided for by parents, employers, pastors, Leaders and teachers. We are becoming spiritual and physical consumers.

I feel that God is calling us to move from being consumers to collaborators, to contributors.

The Enemy will always seek to contaminate or cut off our supply. He can't stop the water flowing but if he can stop us reaching it we will die and be ineffective. If we are passive we let him do this. **DON'T LET HIM!!**

## Why do we need to dig wells?

1. We Honour **God who provided** for us. – it is dishonour to live entitled lazy spiritual lives
2. A Well is vital to **sustain Life**, maybe not now but **hard times** may be coming. Times of drought, bareness and famine.
3. A well is a **place of Provision**, not just for us; but **for others** as well.
4. **A Well will draw people to us**. We become a **provider** not a consumer
  - a. Animals at a water hole, outback farmers who put in waterholes and not fences.

The types of wells we dig can help us become a source of blessing and provision for those around us.

## What sort of Wells do we dig?

### 1. Wells of Refreshing

2. Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, **refreshing** the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

3.

4. Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

- a. When we dig our wells in Jesus we will be refreshed.
- b. Contaminated water won't refresh us.
- c. To be refreshed in tough times we must dig **before we need it**.
- d. When we are in a crisis we need to know our well of refreshing is open, **it can be too late to start digging once the drought comes**, the ground will be harder and the water will be deeper.

### 5. Wells of Relationship

Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you – better a neighbour nearby than a relative far away.

John 15: 12 My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have

made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: love each other.

- a. **Make a friendship investment**, Real Relationship with **God and with others** not just superficial ones. *(Easy for some and not for others)*
- b. **Sow into friendship**. We don't just become friends when we want something. Sometimes we look at people who are receiving a lot of support and a lot of blessing, often it is because they dug their well long before.
- c. **We are all different** too, some are **introverts** and some are **extroverts**, sometimes we need to dig in the place that is foreign to us or it will keep being Barren.

## 6. Wells of Restoration

2 Corinthians 13: 11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! **Strive (work) for full restoration**, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

- a. **Forgiveness** is a well, when we forgive we are forgiven. If we harbour bitterness and disappointment it will contaminate our well.
- b. **Restoration takes effort**, to forgive people; most don't do it because it is hard.
- c. **Contamination Kills**. Why go to the trouble of digging a well and then contaminating the water?
- d. **Forgiveness releases** us from the hurt and into the restoration of God, it releases the other person to God as well, let Him deal with it.
- e. **Grudges grind us down**. When we measure ourselves with Jesus what right do we have, to hold a grudge?
- f. **You have to reach down to draw up!** – let go the high ground, Many people dig a well of restoration but they don't to draw from it.

## 7. Wells of Resolve

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I **resolved** to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

- a. **Living with purpose**, to always **find a solution** and **a way through**. passion to push through when others choose to give up.
- b. Resolve is a **pre-determined** state that says **no matter what** happens we will persist.

- c. **Covenantal living** has its foundation in the word Resolute. No matter what, we are committed together and will **work through and overcome our differences.**

## How do we dig wells?

### 1. Choose where to dig.

- a. Determine where the water is. - **Sometimes we just dig where the digging is easy** rather than where the water is. Beware the path of least resistance – It will lead to a cave in or collapse!
- b. **Father God knows** where the water is, **It is in His Word.**
- c. **Dig into the Word.** – *beware the time suckers of life.*
  - i. **Read it**, - all of it, - really read it –
  - ii. **Immerse yourself** in it – use imagination, put yourself in the story
  - iii. **Study it**, - Find out the back stories, the context, the links between passages and what the original language means.
  - iv. **trust it**, - what are you trusting your life to?
  - v. **Live it** - The Bible is not a book to be read and remembered or just a story to be appreciated, it is a lesson to be lived.
  - vi. **embrace it.** – We need to move to dependence on the word, Just like the well, where it is the source of life to all around, draws others, it brings blessing and it is an imperative. The sooner we embrace this the happier we will be.

*NB: beware of POP culture Christianity, this is where the depth is sacrificed for width, if we compromise the Gospel we may reach more of the crowd but at what price? We need to re-open and establish a Well for generations not for a moment.*

### d. **Dig into Praise and worship Hebrews 13:15 (sacrifice of Praise)**

- i. We can be a spectator or a participant. Paul “Praise is the gate.” We enter his courts how?
- ii. Worship comes from relationship, if we are walking relationally with Jesus we will worship out of necessity not out of choice. – We go to the Well because without it we will die, there is thirst and hunger. We all go through lean and barren times but don't stop digging, if you keep digging you will come back to a place of life – (better to die digging than die doing nothing)
- iii. We need to maintain our fitness in this area, we can grow cold to worship the enemy will fill it in and try to stop us – **unblock the well.**

### e. Dig into Generosity

Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

2 Corinthians 9:6 – 11 Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures for ever.'<sup>10</sup> [\[a\]](#)

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

John 3:16 for God so loved the world that he Gave...

- i. **Generosity of Spirit** – because generosity is the nature of God and we are made in his Image
- ii. **Time** – is the most valuable commodity we have on this earth, more value than money.
- iii. **Finances – Money reflects our use of time.** If we must sell our time for Money then it stands to reason we should also channel money into the Kingdom

#### 2. **Start Digging.** *Matt 28:19 GO! Acts 1:8 "you will be... Holy Spirit comes"*

- a. You know the thing about procrastination.... I will get to that later....
- b. The Castle – I've started the patio...I've dug a hole...yet at the end of the movie the patio is done.
- c. If you fail to start you start to fail.
- d. Are you all talk and no action? Change involves action.
- e. When we allow the Holy Spirit room change happens.

#### 3. **Work at it.** *2 Timothy 4:5 "do the work" 2 Timothy 2:15 a worker not ashamed*

- a. Just because it feels hard or difficult doesn't mean it is wrong, anything of value will have moments of challenge in it.
- b. 10,000 hours
- c. Discipline brings freedom.
- d. Practice makes perfect

- e. IF we understand this the challenges become a motivator for success.

#### **4. Persevere. & Endure**

*Gal 5: 1 Eph 6: 11-14 Stand firm*

*Phil 1:27 manner worthy*

- a. When it feels like a waste of time that is when you dig in and keep going
- b. Trust God and keep going – Our Belief and Faith in His plan will keep us

#### **5. Draw from the well**

*Colossians 2:6 so as you received continue to live in Him*

- a. Drawing water takes work
- b. Drawing water takes some type of container, we need to be open to receive.
- c. For yourself
- d. For others.

## Conclusion:

We need to Dig the wells, unblock the Wells, protect the wells and draw from them. We need to prepare for our Future.

Dudley Daniel said, that a prophetic people; see the future, prepare for the future and Become the future ...

Digging a well is recognition and belief that the future is certain and that God has called us to step into it.

Just like Abraham and Jacob believed God and made plans for a future, where hundreds of years Later their descendant brought salvation to people at the well, and we, thousands of years later are still speaking of it and God is still using it to draw people into His Kingdom.

Ask yourself:

Has God Called us?

Does he have a plan and a future for us?

Are we those who will lay hold of all He has for us?

### Philippians 3:13-15

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But **one** thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I **press on** towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

Pick up a shovel and start digging.