

## QUENCHING OUR EMOTIONAL THIRSTS

BY GUY HAMMOND

Let's start by reading through this incredible passage of scripture together. It's a bit of a long read, but please read through it. I guarantee that you will find yourself in this story as I did.

John 4:7-30

*"When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 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. 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.'" "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 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." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 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."*

*"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.""*

This is a story about a lonely and troubled woman who was trying desperately to quench a spiritual and emotional thirst. There was no permanent satisfaction in the multiple relationships she had experienced. In fact, each time a relationship ended, she needed to go and find a new mate, hoping that this next man would meet all of her emotional needs. Of course, this never worked and is the very reason that the poor woman was now into her sixth relationship. Jesus told her that she would never truly be satisfied until she drank the kind of water that He had for her.

My life mirrors that woman's in many ways. As you can tell from the movie FINDING GUY, there are few things that I turned to in order to quench my emotional thirsts more than homosexuality. In my youth, when I felt lonely, afraid or insecure I turned to homosexuality to meet those very real needs. Before I became a Christian I engaged in homosexual acts with other men hundreds of times. As a Christian, while I have never acted out in homosexuality since my conversion 30 years ago, like everyone, I am certainly guilty of turning to sin to get my needs met. However, like the woman that Jesus met, I have always been left still thirsty. Those things have never left me feeling satisfied in the long term. In fact, I have only been left feeling even thirstier, more empty and alone.

Jesus offered this woman, and He offers you and me something so much more quenching and satisfying than where we have often gone. He offers us all “living water.” And just like this woman would never be content going from relationship to relationship, so it is with you and I. Lust, fantasy, drugs, overeating, anger, gossip, moodiness, whatever . . . these things will never, ever, give us what we really need or even want, it will always, (100% of the time) leave us emotionally and spiritually thirsty. Only when we decide to satisfy our thirst with the living water that Jesus offers us will we ever be truly satisfied.

Sin has deceived us all, and we fell for it hook, line and sinker! The array of temptations promised us things that it has never been able to deliver. Regardless of how hard you searched to quench this thirst, you have sinned. So ask yourself, did you feel better? Did it quench your emotional thirsts? Satan always promises us happiness, satisfaction, fulfillment, love, acceptance and even inner peace. Has it ever delivered these things for you? Like the woman at the well, It did for me, but only for a short amount of time. But it never gave me lasting fulfillment. I was always left needing more.

Before my conversion to Jesus, I “had to” keep crossing new lines, doing things I said I would never do and involving myself more and more in homosexuality. Every time I participated in some kind of homosexual act, I always ended up hating myself, every time I would end up angry and more alone. The thirst was never satisfied, regardless of what it promised me.

Proverbs 27:20 says: *“Death and destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.”*

Where have you been going to get your emotional deficits met? Are you tired of being lied too? Are you tired of being made a fool of by Satan? Are you exhausted of going to a well of water that will only leave you thirstier to get your emotional needs met? In Isaiah 55:1-3 we are all asked a couple of good questions by God.

*“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come; buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.” (Isaiah 55:1-3).*

If you're anything like me, I spent a lot on sin. A lot of time and energy wasted, hours, days, months, even years that we will never get back. Some of us have spent a lot of money too, all to drink something that would never satisfy us to begin with. What a waste. Do you not deserve better? God thinks so. God calls out to you and me, and begs us to come to Him that our souls may live. What God offers is free. It will cost you nothing, and it is the only thing that will quench your hurts, fears and insecurities.

Please take out a pen and paper and ask the following questions:

- How does your life or experience mirror the story of the woman at the well?
- How has sin lied to you?
- How have you misspent yourself on satisfying your needs through other means?
- What does Isaiah 55:1-3 mean to you?

Are you ready for change?

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Thoughts presented in this devotional are taken from the book *MESSED UP: Proof That You're More to God Than Your Mistakes* by Guy Hammond and published by Illumination Publishers. The book is a companion to the documentary movie *FINDING GUY* by One Compass Media.

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