

I. Introduction to John 4 and the Woman at the Well

We are in John chapter 4. To bring all our visitors up to speed, several months ago, we finished the book of Proverbs after about six years, and we started the Gospel of John. We have been working our way through John. It is a book that I have not taught for quite a while and was looking forward to doing it. There is so much in it.

Last week, we worked through John chapter 1, John chapter 2, John chapter 3, the story of Nicodemus, and now we moved into John chapter 4. We looked at one of the greatest studies and stories in all of the Bible, and that is the story about the woman at the well.

Most messages I have heard on this, and they are good messages, I am not criticizing them at all, but they always emphasize her getting saved and coming to the Lord Jesus. I am 100% on board with that. I think that this is one of the greatest pictures of how we got saved. But like most stories in the Bible, where most Baptist preachers preach it, there is so much more to it than that. Sometimes, I think that Baptist churches with Baptist preachers sell their people short when it comes to the Word of God.

Last week, we talked about this well being Jacob's well. There she meets the Lord Jesus Christ. I told you when we started John chapter 4 a couple of weeks ago, we have not even gotten to the salvation aspect of it yet, because there has been so much to look at. I told you that I wanted to take some time and lay out wells for you in the Bible, so that as we unfold this story in John chapter 4, you would have a better understanding, depth, and context.

For me, it is using places like this to help show you how the Bible that you hold in your hands today is the greatest book this world has ever seen. There is not any book on this planet that can compare to it. Years and years and years ago, Truman Dollar, who I worked with for a number of years, made a statement that I have never forgotten. He said, "If you could take all of the literature and the books and the material that were written by man, you could put them in a pile that would cover the state of Missouri and it would be stacked up past the orbit of the moon, which is two hundred and fifty thousand miles." He said, "If you could possibly do that, you could judge every one of those books in the light of one book." That is so true. The Word of God that you hold in your hand today.

In our study together, my goal is not just to give you some sermon or something to challenge you with. I want to do that, but I want more than that. I want to show you by the very things that we look at how you, too, can unlock the scriptures. I am not interested in just getting up and giving you a sermon so you can go home and take your notes. That is important, but I want you to learn how to use this Bible yourself.

II. The Significance of Water and Wells

We know that in the Bible, we have laid this out over the last couple of weeks, water in the Bible is a picture of the Word of God. We know that.

Ephesians 5:26

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

In Exodus chapter 17, when the children of Israel were without water, Moses smote that rock, and the water came out. It is a picture of the Word of God. We now know that a well in the Bible, a well of water, represents the depth of our relationship with God and His Word. How deep we are willing to go, because the deeper you go, the sweeter the water gets.

Proverbs 20:5

Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 25:25

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

The good news, of course, being the Gospel. The far country is the book that God gave us from Heaven.

Over the years, I have heard a lot of great preachers preach on winning people to Christ and make great analogies of soul winning. My father in the Lord, Mel Sabaka, used to say that soul winning is nothing more than one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. Remember those things? I heard somebody else say that soul winning is nothing more than giving a thirsty soul a cold drink of water. That is so true. The idea is that we are to be a well of water to people in a dry and thirsty land, this old world.

The greatest example of that is found in the Old Testament, in Exodus chapters 16 and 17. The nation of Israel left Egypt and now they are in the wilderness of sin. Whether you know it or not, we are in the wilderness of sin today. When they moved into that wilderness of sin, there was not one thing there that could sustain them. There was no water, there was no food. Many of God's people back then complained about God to Moses and they thought that God had foolishly brought them out of Egypt to let them die in the wilderness.

That was not true, because Exodus 16 tells us that God brought the manna down from heaven. The manna is a supernatural gift of God's food to them. It is a picture of the Word of God supernaturally that God gave to you and to me. Everything in that chapter is incredible. He brought it down at night when they were sleeping. In the morning, they found the strength of

supernatural food from God. They did not have to go look for the caves and the Dead Sea Scrolls. They did not have to go looking for the food supernaturally that God gave them. God brought it right to where they were.

I am telling you, you do not have to look in the Greek and the Hebrew. You do not have to go to the Dead Sea or all the other junk that is out there. God brought the manna from heaven and put it right in your lap this morning. The fact that God brought it right to where they were, they opened a tent flap, and there it was. It brought a decision that they had to make, much like the decision that you have to make. They either gathered enough to eat or they just trampled it under their feet and went on their way, just like God's people do. One of the things I have learned in about 50 years in the ministry is that human nature never changes. It is the same now as it was back then.

So they are in the wilderness of sin, and there is no water either. God tells Moses to take the rod, the rod of judgment, and go up to that rock, a type of Christ, and he smites that rock, and the water comes forth. Supernatural bread, supernatural water. As we travel through this world, most certainly we are in our own wilderness of sin. I am going to tell you right now, there is nothing in this world that will satisfy our needs other than, one, the manna from heaven and the deep well of water that God has given us, pictured in John chapter 4. Once we have our well dug deep, then we give water to ourselves, our families, and then of course, we take it to others.

The Christian life is not complicated. It really is not. But the Christian life has been compromised. Today, we look at everything out there that God says is the simplicity of Christ. We try to make it hard. We know now, also, that God's plan for the salvation of the world was through families. In the Old Testament, it was through family. He said about Abraham, "I know him that he will do what is right with his family." The whole 12 tribes in the nation of Israel came from a family. In the New Testament, that is God's process: the training of our children to walk and serve God in the ministry side by side, or as missionaries and pastors, or wherever God sends them.

Psalm 127:3

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

They are not ours, they are God's heritage. God gave them to us that the fruit of the womb might be His reward, that we would do what God wants us to do. Generations after generations after generations of families. An unbroken line of succession.

I told you, when it comes to a well, you have to dig your own. You cannot live on somebody else's well water forever. You may come here and you may get disciplined and people may help you with the Bible and teach you the Bible. But sooner or later, you have got to dig your own well. I showed you in Proverbs 5:15 where he says that you have to dig a well, but then you have to make a cistern. A cistern is carved out of a rock that holds the water. So you get the water out of the well you dig, but then you have got to store it up within a rock that you can use it when the droughts come.

My 50 years have fundamentally been just about one thing: teaching you how to dig a well. If you wanted to make everything simple, I cannot dig it for you. All I have done is started to provide for you the tools for you to dig your own well, because you will never survive without one. We are living in the wilderness of sin, and nothing this world has is going to satisfy you.

III. Old Testament Examples of Wells

I gave you two great stories looking at wells. I wanted to show you how you do not just want to go to John 4 and tell the standard story of salvation. Though I am going to do that before we get done with John chapter 4, not today, but you do not want to miss that. I gave you two great stories that really begin to show us what the well of water, the Word of God, is all about.

Most of God's people do not want to dig a well. You want to live off bottled water. You want to go to QuikTrip and get it by the case for \$2 a piece. Some of you are really stupid and you go to the football game and pay \$6 a bottle for it when you can get about three cases for that. It always amazed me what people out in the hot sun are willing to do to get water, pay \$6 for a 50-cent bottle, but they are not willing to invest anything in the water of life that will give you what you need.

The first story I gave you was in Genesis chapter 24. That is a great story, because that is the story of Abraham wanting to find a bride for his son Isaac. I know the story is a cute little deal and fun and nice, but most people do not realize and understand that that is a great picture. Not only is it a great picture because Abraham is the type of God the Father, Isaac is the type of Christ, and Eliezer is the type of the Holy Spirit of God, and he is out there looking for a bride, a Gentile bride who is a picture of the church. Not only is that a great story, but it also forms for us, and there is a book on it back there, we teach it all the time, how to find the right spouse. Because in that chapter, there are 19 principles that you ought to look for in either a man or a woman as a potential spouse before you ever say, "I do."

The greatest thing is, when he found her, do you know where he found her? At the well. He found her at the well, and not only was she just at the well, she was learning how to use the water out of the well. It is a great story. Your prospective spouse needs to have the same love for the well that you have.

Then I gave you last week, Genesis chapter 26. Isaac and his family, they are in the land. God sends them down to the land of the Philistines, and the wells there that he digs. It was an incredible study as we walked through all that. Because of his obedience and his faithfulness, I showed you how this applies to your family. Because of his obedience and faithfulness, God did three things that He will do for us that we are faithful in digging a well: He blessed his family, He provided for his family, and He preserved his family.

I also showed you that there were three things when God began to work in his life, three vital things that Isaac did that if we do them, we will ensure our families for generations and generations. The first thing he did? He built an altar. I told you how that has to be a picture for your children of what this family stands for. The second thing that he did, the Bible says that he pitched a tent. It does not just say he pitched a tent, it says he pitched a tent there at the altar. The

third thing he did? He dug a well. This will fit into any Christian family, any Christian's life. The study of wells in the Bible is incredible.

IV. The Woman at Jacob's Well in John 4

Today, we will be back in John chapter 4. Again, we are going to look at wells, but this time we are going to look at Jacob's well. I am going to read John chapter 4 like I did last week. I know it is lengthy, but this will be a time if you want to nod off for five or six minutes, you can go ahead and do it.

John 4:1-30

1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

3 He left Judæa, and departed again into Galilee.

4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 *Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.*

17 *The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:*

18 *For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*

19 *The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.*

20 *Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.*

21 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

22 *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

25 *The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.*

26 *Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.*

27 *And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?*

28 *The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,*

29 *Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?*

30 *Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.*

Joe, would you stand up and ask God a blessing on the preaching this morning?

[Prayer]

Our Father, we come to You in Jesus' name. We are grateful for the privilege that we have to gather together in Your hands. Lord, do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, and so much the more as we see the day approaching. Thank You for this taste of heaven, Lord, where we can feast on Your manna, where we can come to this well, Lord, and have the springing water that springs up within us. Lord, we are so grateful that You have quenched our thirst in Jesus Christ, and You continue to do that on a daily basis. Open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law here this morning. Bless and anoint the preacher here with Your Spirit, and Lord, work in us, each and every one of us, to will and to do of Your good pleasure, that Your beloved Son might be lifted up, that He might draw all men to Himself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Verse 6 tells us, "Now Jacob's well was there." Here is the storyline, because as we move through this, this is going to be very important. Jesus is sitting on this well in verse 6, and a woman of Samaria comes to get water. Jesus says to her in verse 7, "Give me drink." She says back in verse 9, "Why? The Jews have nothing to do with us. Why would you want to drink from me?"

Let me stop here and explain this. He is a Jew, she is from Samaria. Samaritans are half Jew and half Gentile. Most people know about the Samaritans, but they do not know how that all came about. You have to go back to 2 Kings chapter 17, around verse 24. When the king of Assyria, better known as Sennacherib, came down and took the nation of Israel captive, the devil, through him, took a bunch of the Jews and put them down into Samaria, which was a Gentile city, and had them intermingle and intermix and intermarry, obviously to wipe out the nation of Israel's true seed. That is where all this Samaria stuff comes from.

I want you to see this: when Jesus has this conversation, He picks a time when the disciples are not there. That may not mean something to you. We talked about a trained eye when it comes to the Bible. That may not mean much to you, but to me, that tells me that there will be times in your life when you are working with people or dealing with somebody that God will get some people out of the way so they are not in the way of what you are trying to do with them. He sends the disciples down to town. Arby's had "Pick Five, you get five for a dollar." So He sent them down there to get some food. He wanted them out of the way because it would have been too much to explain with Him as a Jew talking to her as a Samaritan, half Jew and half Gentile.

Sometimes, I had to go talk to people in the hospital who were going to die, and I knew that the family did not want me to talk to them about the Lord. Do you know what I would do? Going up the elevator, I would say, "Lord, You are good. If You want me to give this guy the Gospel, You are going to have to fix it because I cannot kick anybody out of the room." I would walk into that room, talk to this guy, and I would not be there 30 seconds before a nurse came in and said, "The doctor would like to talk to you. The family is down the hall." I got what I needed. He will do that, but you have to see how this thing lays itself out. All this stuff is important.

Then the obvious: they get into a discussion on water. She is a perfect picture of the natural man who receives not the things of the Spirit of God. She is thinking about physical water from a well that she has to keep coming back to. He, on the other hand, is making the analogy that the water He has is spiritual water that you will get, that is eternal life. This story forms, as many preachers preach it, one of the greatest stories on getting God's salvation of water of life. But there is more to it than just that.

Just like this woman at the well, this is a little practical thing for all of us: all through life, you will find people who are looking for something that is real. Most of you are in this church this morning because you were looking for something, because the world was no longer satisfying you, and you were looking for something that was real, and you found it. Now, there were a few of you here that just came in and got lost and have never found your way out. I get that. But for the most part, you came here looking for something real because the world was not real for you. Many of you got into different levels of issues in your life, some of them not so bad, some of

them tragic. But the bottom line is, you found that your escape route was through the Word of God, and God's church, and God's people are looking for something that will satisfy them.

Last week, in the story, I told you how that when God sent him down to the land of the Philistines, the Bible says that when the blessings of God came into his life, the Philistines envied him. I also told you that that is what the world ought to see in you; they ought to envy what you have. Again, we make Christianity so complicated. We have all kinds of programs, all kinds of this and all kinds of that. We have churches that put on a halftime show, like a Super Bowl, to try to get people. I am going to tell you what all people are looking for: all they are looking for is a real Christian. That is all they are looking for. Unfortunately, real Christians are about as rare as a Tyrannosaurus Rex in Central Park in New York. But that is what they are looking for. Their lives are a mess. They want to see somebody, they want to see something that is real, but they want to see it in somebody that is real. They do not want a preacher just to get up and talk about what God can do. They want to see the evidence in your life that God can do something. They want to see what is real. They want to see a real family. Their families are messed up and broken up and beaten up. They want to see a real Christianity. Unfortunately, because they do not see it, they start looking in all the wrong places, do they not?

I am going to tell you something, whether you are saved or lost this morning, or you are listening to my voice out there: every issue that we have in life, every problem, every disaster, every issue that befalls us, will go back to us looking in the wrong places for the answers. I do not care if you are saved or lost, and I am here to tell you, the only lasting thing that will satisfy you completely will be being regenerated by the washing of the water by the Word.

In life, in the physical world, we all get thirsty, and we all think that there are substitutes out there to quench our thirst. I have heard it all. Your body gets impurities in it, and they need to be cleansed. I found this out, and this is true, I guarantee you that there is no substitute for water in our lives. You can drink all the Coke you want, you can drink all the Dr. Pepper you want, you can drink all the Squirt, whatever you want to do. You can pretend you are a hillbilly and drink Mountain Dew, I do not care. You can drink coffee, which I am a lover of. You can drink tea, you can drink iced tea, you can get iced coffee, you can get a mocha latte up your nose. You can drink beer, you can get a whiskey, you can have Jack Daniel's on this side and Captain Morgan on this side. It does not matter. You can drink juice: apple juice, grape juice, peach juice, not prune juice. There is a lot of stuff. None of it will quench your thirst. Water itself is supernatural. There is no taste to it, there is no color to it, unless you are drinking it in Raytown out of the water system, it is a little rusty. That is okay, after 50 years in the ministry, I am a little rusty, I understand. No taste to it, no additives, no sugar. It is clear. It is almost like in its physical form, it is supernatural.

Everybody remember back in the 1950s, there was a group, Roy Rogers was big back then, and Hopalong Cassidy. Kids do not even know who this is. Gene Autry. How many remember those guys? That is back when this country still meant something with the Bible. Years ago, I watched Hopalong Cassidy on Saturday morning, the old ones. Actually, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry would do this too. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were saved people. They were Christians. I think Gene Autry was, and I do not know about Hopalong Cassidy, but I know this: he had this little

thing, and it was good, wholesome stuff. There was no fornication in it. I do not think they ever even shot anybody and killed him. A guy would rob a bank and run off. Hoppy would pull out his gun and shoot it up in the air and hit a rock and come down and hit the guy in the arm. The only thing these guys ever kissed was their horse. What is wrong with that?

After this thing, Hopalong Cassidy came out, and he said, "Boys and girls, listen to Hoppy. The Bible is the Word of God, and you need to obey the Bible, and you need to obey mom and dad." You will not find that today. Back then, there was a quartet, how many know these guys? Sons of the Pioneers. The Sons of the Pioneers were cowboys from out west, and they sang all these songs about out west, and they were with Hopalong Cassidy. Dale Evans and Roy Rogers used them all the time. When I was a kid growing up, I had all their records. They had back then the little ones with the hole in the middle, you know, you put on the deal records. My favorite song was "Cool Water." It was about this guy. I am going to sing a little bit of it for you just so you can get in the spirit of things. "All day long I faced the barren wasteland without water." And then a guy would go, "Cool," and they would go, "Cool, clear, clear water." Then somebody in the background would go, "Water, water." It was great. Then the second verse was, "Do not listen to me, Dan, he is the devil, not a man, and he crossed the burning sands for water." Help me out now, "Cool, clear water." That was my favorite song. Little did I know, they were talking about life now. Many of us have crossed that burning sand, have we not? And one day we found that water, cool, clear water.

V. The Well as a Picture of the Gospel to the Gentiles

She meets Jesus at this well, Jacob's well, and He is sitting on it, and they have this conversation about her thirst and His water. I have talked many, many times to try to get you to see and use and develop a trained eye. Do not just read the Bible; train your eye to look for things in the Bible. Right here, her being a Samaritan will be our first glimpse that the Word of God will be going to the Gentile world at some point.

I do not know what you know about the book of Acts, but this story follows the book of Acts. In Acts chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Israel gets their final chance to get the kingdom. They ask the Lord in chapter 1, "Will You restore unto Israel the kingdom?" But this time, He does not answer them. Then Peter preaches four or five messages. Stephen ends it up, and he lays it out about them to get the kingdom. Every stupid Baptist and every Bible college on this planet tries to make the church of Jerusalem a model church. There is not a Christian within a hundred million light years in Acts chapter 1 through 7. It is Jerusalem, men of Jerusalem, and their last final chance to get that kingdom. What happens? Stephen gets up, he preaches to them, "Ye men of Israel," and they reject him.

What happens in chapter 8? Something that has never happened before, that you have got a glimpse of in John chapter 4: the Gospel goes, and revival breaks out in Samaria. At the end of chapter 8, God does tell us that black lives matter, because you have an Ethiopian eunuch here. They get saved, you bet they do. As we move on through it, Acts chapter 9, Paul gets saved. Acts chapter 10, Cornelius, he is an Italian. I said that just for you, Joe. Italian lives matter too. He is an Italian, and he is in a band. It says he is in an Italian band. He is in a little polka band. Then

what happened through this transition? Acts chapter 11, Acts chapter 20, goes to the Gentile. But you have got a glimpse of that right here. It is no accident that she is from Samaria. It is no accident that He did it when the disciples were not around.

VI. Connecting John 4 to Genesis 29: The Well, The Stone, and The Flocks

Today, I want to take you back again to the Old Testament, and I want to show you another story about a well, but this time it will be a story of this exact same well in John chapter 4, Jacob's well. Through this, you will see how God will use stories in His Bible, in this case 1800 years apart, to unlock some of the great New Testament principles for us that will lead to not only the salvation of all men, but it led to your salvation and my salvation, and hopefully will unlock everything in the Bible for you.

Let us go back to our trained eye for a moment. Look at this story in John chapter 4 that I just read to you. I do not know if you picked up on the Samaritan aspect here and saw that, but there is something else here. We know this story deals around our own salvation of us getting water and Christ's death on the cross that brought forth that water. Do you see anything here that would add more weight to that? When I look at it, the first thing that jumped out to me is this whole story, and I do not know why He would have to put this in here. It does not help me. It is not going to be a verse I am going to give you around a campfire some night that really means something to me. Why did He tell us in this story that it all took place at the sixth hour? Do you know why? Because it was at the sixth and the ninth hour that Jesus Christ paid the price for your sin and my sin on the cross. This thing is a picture of something.

Matthew 27:45

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

This is where He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" This is where He cried out for you, "I thirst," and He did not get any water so you could.

Let us read Genesis chapter 29, the first eight verses, and then we will begin to put this together.

Genesis 29:1-10

1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we.

5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him.

6 And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.

7 And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them.

8 And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep.

9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Let us see how this Old Testament story will connect up to the New Testament chapter in John chapter 4. This broadens everything that you have ever learned about John chapter 4 and the little messages that you get. Today is a great lesson on how to put your Bible together. I have never just blown through things. I have talked about the trained eye. I have showed you some key things here that you should pick up the moment you read it. The Bible is filled with things like that, and you train your eye what to look for, because what you look for through a trained eye will always give you the context of whatever you are looking at.

There are a couple of things to see here:

1. Verse 2: This well here, I have already told you, is the exact same well found in John chapter 4. It is just around 1800 years later.
2. The second thing: there are three flocks gathered around this well.
3. The third thing: the problem is there is a great stone on the mouth of the well, and the sheep cannot get water.
4. The fourth thing: verse 3, so they move the stone off and they water the sheep and they get water.

Let us go back to our trained eye for just a minute. These are things that you train your eye to look for. It is the key to unlocking the Bible. It is not Greek, it is not Hebrew, it is not going to a Bible college, it is not going to a seminary. It is taking the simple, clear Word of God that God gave you and understanding God wrote His own book and defined it the way He wanted to define it, and you have to develop a trained eye to see it.

I already gave you John 4:6, the sixth hour, we connected that in. Now look at Genesis 29:3, and it says, "and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place." "His place." This well is a male well. It is connected with a man. It is connected with a man, and it has a mouth. I know the moment you read that, you think it is talking about a woman, but it is not. This is his place. That was a joke, which I will pay for dearly later. It is a male well. A well male. A male well.

5. Then after they water the sheep, they put the stone back on the well.

6. The sixth thing: Rachel shows up, verses 9 and 10, and they again move the stone, and all the sheep are gathered together, and the Bible says now they are watered and fed. You want to mark that. It tells you there in those verses that it was a high day. You want to mark that.

Genesis 29:9-10

9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

So far, I have given you six keys that your trained eye should have seen, because I am not just interested in giving you a nice little salvation story about the woman at the well, but I am also interested, and I will give you that in a couple of weeks, but there is so much in this chapter. I am not just interested in giving you some sermon. I want you to see, because you have to learn to dig your own well, so I am going to take all the time that it takes to show you about wells.

The first thing I showed you was John 4:6, the sixth hour, connected to the crucifixion. The second thing I showed you that there were three flocks of sheep that needed water, Genesis chapter 29. The next thing I showed you that this well is connected with a male, "his place," and it has a mouth, Genesis 29:3. Then the next thing I showed you, the fifth key, was that Rachel shows up. Then the sixth thing was a high day.

Now, with all that, here we go. Let us go back, and now we are going to put it together for you, and I want you to see how the Bible, with a trained eye of just key things, will open itself up for you.

Verses 1 and 2: This is again, this is the exact same well in this story in Genesis 29 that we have in John 4, and it is a picture of the woman of Samaria. Same well, same place, just 1800 years later. Verse 2 tells me that there are three flocks of sheep. That ought to be a key once you put this together, because the Bible says that the whole earth was populated through Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. They represent the three basic races coming out of the ark by which the whole world is populated by. Now, I know we have that because of all the intermingling, but fundamentally, in the beginning, the sons of Noah, they populated the whole earth: a black man, a yellow man, and a white man, Genesis chapter 9.

With a trained eye, the moment you saw those three flocks, you should have went back to the cross of Calvary where Pilate, when they crucified the Lord Jesus Christ in John chapter 19, they put an inscription over the cross, and it said, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." A trained eye would see that he put it in three languages: he put it in Latin for Ham, he put it in Greek for Japheth, and he put it in Hebrew for the Jew. Why? Because those are the three flocks that needed to get the water out of the well.

So our first removal of the stone will be God dealing with man in the Old Testament. This will be the kingdom of heaven, the physical, literal kingdom that is given to the nation of Israel, and salvation comes through that nation. That is how all the nations, I mean, He told Abraham,

"Through you will all the nations of the earth be blessed. Through you will all the families of the earth be blessed." Do you know how they were going to get the water out of the well? Through the nation of Israel.

But the stone, then after they water them, and they water them, but it does not say they feed them, but the stone is put back on in verse 3. That will show us that there comes a time in Israel when God shuts the door. That time historically will be under Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC. It will be under Sennacherib in 587 BC. It is talked about in Psalm chapter 78. Most of the Old Testament prophets wrote about it either coming here or after the fact. This is what we know in history as the 400 silent years, where the stone is on the well, and there is not one revelation from God to man. Neither network was written in the Old Testament for the next 400 years. This is where the devil does his work in history. This is where your Dead Sea Scrolls come from. This is where all the Apocrypha comes from. This is where the godless piece of trash Septuagint comes from. This is where all that stuff. The devil counterfeits it because God, heaven's brass, man, God speaks to no man. The stone is back on the well.

Then verse 9, Rachel shows up. Rachel, to the trained eye, would tell you immediately, we know that she is the type of the nation of Israel. You are told in Matthew chapter 2, verses 17 and 18, when Herod was going to kill all the children two years and down to try to get rid of Christ, remember that story? The Bible says and makes a clear statement that Rachel was weeping for her children, the nation of Israel. Rachel had been dead for hundreds and hundreds of years, but she is a picture of the nation of Israel. She is buried in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is the city of meat, the city of bread. It is a picture of everything, and she is the type of the nation of Israel.

Then we have the trained eye, it says it was a high day. When you go over to John 19:31, when Christ is crucified, behold, you know what it says? It says it was a high day. You see, it is things like this that the Catholics never figure out. This is why they celebrate Good Friday. They teach you that Good Friday is the day He was crucified on. They cannot get the truth that it was Bad Wednesday. The reason why they get Good Friday is because for them, the math does not work out, because they are so stupid that they do not see out of Leviticus chapters 23 and 24 that when Christ was crucified, there were two Sabbaths that weekend. That is why it is called the high day.

But the sheep cannot be watered and fed until verse 8, "all the flocks be gathered together." That is the Jew and Gentile in one body, Ephesians 2:14, and everybody made one in Christ. So in Genesis 29:9-10, they rolled the stone from the well. I love that phrase, "rolled the stone," like the tomb. They rolled the stone, and the trained eye says not only do they get watered, but they got fed, and it all comes through Rachel showing up, because Rachel is a type of the nation of Israel. In John 4:22, here it comes: "salvation is of the Jews." So Galatians 3:28 tells us that now that the rock has been rolled away, now that the water is here and we can have the water and be fed,

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

So much for the heresy that Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians. The stupidest thing on the planet is for a guy to get up and say, "Well, the book of Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians." I beg the difference. My Bible says that in Christ Jesus, there is neither Jew nor Gentile. I do not even understand why he wrote it. Nothing like a simple Bible story to clear up your seminary education. This whole thing, what an incredible story and picture to connect John chapter 4, the woman at Jacob's well.

One more time, get this in your Bible, and here it comes. The Bible says when I first read this, not this time, years ago, the thing that popped out to me, it says, "and Jacob's well was there." Do you know what? You have a King James Bible in your lap this morning. Amen. Now, the book of Galatians talks about nine fruit of the Holy Spirit of God, and you will read down through there and you will find nine fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians is the ninth book in the New Testament. The word "Galatians" itself has nine letters in it. The two verses that those nine are found in add up to nine. In other words, if you want to have the fruit of the Holy Spirit of God in your life, you have got to get the book you have in your lap. It is just that simple.

Your Bible says "Holy Bible," nine letters. It says "King James," nine letters. If you have got the right one, it is a 1611. What is six and three? Nine. Now let me ask you a question, do you know what "James" in Hebrew means? It is "Jacob." You have got the book in your lap that is not on. The Bible says over in Ecclesiastes chapter 8, "where the word of a king is, there is power." You have got the book in your hand, God-given to you, the manna from heaven, a King James 1611 Authorized Version. God did not give it when Elizabeth was on the throne. All these guys, "Well, why did God pick King James?" Because you are stupid and do not know why He did this. This is why He did not get it when Henry was on, or Mary was on, or Elizabeth was on, or Victoria was on, because that is a Jewish book, and salvation is of the Jew. So He waited till a king got on the throne, James, with Jacob's name, and gave you the well of water in that book right there.

Then the next thing, verse 2, we already know this, the three flocks first represent the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. They remove the stone in the Old Testament, and they get watered, but not fed. Now, trained eye again, they get watered. The Word of God in a national sense, the kingdom of heaven. Romans 3:2 says that the nation of Israel got the oracles of God. They had the Word of God. They got the water, the Word of God, in a national sense, the nation. But they had no individual Word of God to them through the Holy Spirit of God, no personal relationship with the Holy Spirit of God like you and I have. They did not have a Holy Spirit of God like John chapter 16 said that will come, that will lead and guide you to all truth and feed you. They did not have that. In fact, in the Old Testament, God spoke to them four ways: the nation of Israel, dreams and visions, through prophets, through the Urim and the Thummim, or through the Angel of the Lord Himself. They did not have a Bible like you have. They had a law. They did not have the stories that you have. People think sometimes, "Well, they just back there, Samson should have looked up his own book and found out what he should have done was right." They did not have any of that. They got watered, but only you and I can be fed. Do you know why? You have got the book from Jacob.

So they put the stone back on the well, and I told you that is Psalm 78, where the kingdom of heaven goes out, 606 BC, 587 BC, end of the kingdom of heaven on earth until the first coming

of Christ. Now for the next 400 years or so, heavens are brass. As I already told you, the devil has a field day. This is where he counterfeits everything. This is where he is going to be the first coming of, he counterfeits everything. This is where everything is now put into place that when Christ shows up, he is going to have 400 years. Trained eye: they are down in Egypt. When they go out in Exodus chapter 12, they are down in Egypt for a couple of hundred years, and while they are down in Egypt for all that period of time, do you know what the devil is doing? He is having sons of God come back down again, and he is putting the promised land and stocking it with a fresh supply of giants so that when they go to that land, they have to face them. He does everything he can to keep them out of the land that God promised them.

Those 400 silent years, do you know what he did? He knew what was coming. Do you know what he did? He brought every religion, he brought every philosophy, he brought everything that the Greeks had, the Romans had, and everybody had, and he sophisticated religion to the point where he trashed it so bad because he wanted to do for the church what he did to the nation of Israel. So when Christ showed up the first time and died on that cross, that you would have to argue with somebody to get them to believe it because of philosophy. What destroyed the church at Laodicea, the very church we live in? I will tell you what destroyed it: philosophy. That is what destroyed it, the rudiments of the world coming into the church. I am telling you right now, this is how this thing goes. The heavens are brass, and the devil did the exact same thing there 400 years that he did with the nation of Israel while they were down all those years in Egypt. He prepared where both of us were going to give you every opposition to keep you from getting there. It took the nation of Israel 40 years wandering, and yet we have already studied, they could have been there in 10 days. You can have the Word of God down and be where you need to be and go where God wants you to be in a very short time. But do you know what it takes most of God's people? All of their life, and they still do not get it done. Do you know why? Because you are wandering in the wilderness, and I am going to tell you again, nothing to eat there, nothing to drink there.

Then I love that Rachel shows up, type of the nation of Israel, salvation is of the Jews. Again, they roll away the stone, resurrection, and now all three flocks come together and get water and they get fed, because now we are looking at the New Testament and a personal relationship with Christ by being in the family of God of the New Testament church of God, and the Jew and the Gentile all in one body together. What do you think in John chapter 4 the woman was from Samaria? I will tell you why she is from Samaria: she is the half Jew and half Gentile. That was a picture of where we are going to be in Christ Jesus in the church age, Jew and Gentile in one body. That is why, trained eye, trained eye.

Now watch this, oh how I love this book. Back in Genesis 29, a great stone sitting on the well, and 1800 years later, when a half Jew and half Gentile, a picture of the body of Christ, comes to the same well to get water, she finds 1800 years later on the same well, on the same mouth of the well, sitting the Rock of God, Deuteronomy 32, and the great stone that was cut without hands in Daniel 2:45, on the same well, sitting in the same place, "his place," Genesis 29:3, sitting on the well's mouth, and she, because the stone was rolled away, gets the water of life. A half Jew, half Gentile, representing the body of Christ, Jew and Gentile in one body, and we got it too. That

story is a picture of how God, through the water, the Word of God, and the sheep and the flocks, and the key people that brought salvation through the nation of Israel, right to you and me in John chapter 4. Without Genesis chapter 29, it will not cut it for you. There is a depth to the Word of God. That is how your Bible will lay itself out.

VII. Personal Reflection on Ministry and Gratitude

Let me just say this, I do so appreciate all that this weekend represents. Last night was more than I could have ever hoped for, and I appreciate today, and I appreciate the cards and our sentiments and everybody and their kindness and their love for our 50 years in the ministry. But I must tell you, and I do not want to diminish all the work that everybody did, because it is so appreciated, and it is a labor of love, and I totally understand that, but I would be less than God's man if I did not tell you this: that in truth, it is not about me. I get it, I know God uses men, and you are to follow that man, and we have all heard it. Everybody says, "Well, you are just following a man." You are supposed to do that. Every man who never told me I was following a man was following some other man.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Paul said to Timothy, "Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." You are supposed to follow somebody. That is what God intended for you to do. He did not tell you to get saved and just incubate for four or five years until you hatched out of your spiritual egg and became mature. He puts men in your life, He puts women in your life, He puts people in your life, and when they are real, you follow them. When they are not, do not. How complicated is that?

My calling of God in my life has just been about one thing. I know people see a guy's ministry from all different perspectives, and I understand that, but nobody sees it in the perspective that I see it, because I am the one who lived it, that God called through and all the things that He did. My job is very clear. I do not know that I am a really good pastor, but I have pastored to do what God has called me to do. I have learned this through life, and you guys will probably understand this, I know you guys will: most really good pastors are not very good preachers, and most really good preachers do not make very good pastors. You find one who can do both, you have got something, but they are not around very far. I can go back, we can go all the way back to Canton and see that. It is what it is.

But I had to pastor because what God called me to do, and pastoring is just my pseudo cloak, is to take young men and young ladies, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, and teach by the greatest book that ever was on this planet how to dig a well. That is all I care about. I care about taking every young man, every young woman, some of you have been with me 30, 40 years, and some of you were with me when you were 14 years old. To me, it has only been about one thing: that is to take whoever, no matter how old you are, wherever you are at in life, and I said it to many of you, and I do not care where you have been, what you have done, what you have been into, all I care about is where you are at now and where you want to go. I have tried to teach you

through the greatest book this world has ever seen. My ministry for 50 years has never been having just a passing acquaintance with the Word of God.

I understand not everybody wants that. Some people want a passing acquaintance. They will come here and they will say, "I have heard all the time, you know what, man, he went for an hour and 40 minutes preaching. I am only used to 15." I get that. I could not even get my nose blown and water drunk in 15 minutes on a message. Are you kidding me? But I understand that you are in a world that does not care about the Bible, and you are part of a Christianity that does not want truth anymore. You cannot stand any more than 15 minutes of truth, and the real message is, in that 15 minutes, you probably did not get much truth, because the idea today is give them a 15-minute message at a 45-minute side show in the circus center ring, the dancing girls, the break dancers. One church has a woman dressed up in a cat suit dancing on the platform. What do you say to that? It is nuts. I am telling you, if you want a passing acquaintance with the Word of God, I will give you a list of churches you can try. No offense, I love you to death, you will not like it here. We dig wells deep, and I cannot dig it for you, but I will give you the tools. I just gave you a lot of tools this morning on Bible Institute. I give you tools. My people who work with you, they give you tools. We are like a blood source, except we do not charge any rent for the tools we give you. That is the way it has to work.

I just do for you what others have done for me. I thought a lot yesterday and ever since Thursday when I knew this, about looking back at my own world, and honestly, guys, there is nothing great about me. I just simply do for you what somebody did for me. I have a lot of problems in my life, just like you do, but I will tell you one problem I do not have, and that is ingratitude. I appreciate what somebody does for me. I thought back, 50 years ago, my dad died this month, and it was that very time that God began to work in my heart. I got home from the army, and before that time, my mom would go to church, and I would go with her, and I slipped off into Mel Sabaka's class that morning. I still had my army uniform on, and I slipped in and sat in the back because you guys were crazy, and I did not want any part of it. But I went because my mom wanted to go. Tommy Thomas preached that morning. Tommy Thomas was an old warhorse Philadelphia preacher, and I will never forget it as long as I live. It was the beginning of where I am at right now here with you, because Tommy Thomas began to preach, and he said, "I want to preach to you this morning on the second coming of Christ." When he said that, he grabbed his heart and he started to slump over, and he said, "Are you ready?" And he started to fall over, and he said it one more time as loud as he could before he hit the floor and went home to be with the Lord, and he pointed his finger and he screamed with the last ounce of his strength in his body, "Are you ready?" There were probably 250 people there that morning. He was pointing to me, and I left that thing. Sabaka got up and preached, I do not even remember what he said, but all I knew is he was pointing to me, and I knew I was not ready. I did some soul searching, and it was shortly after that that my dad passed away. God began to move in my life, and it was just shortly thereafter that in June, I had already made my commitment. I went forward and I got right with the Lord, and really made it, got it done. It was a Sunday night.

I wanted to do something for God. I did not know what to do, but I had a telescope and I knew a lot about astronomy. So I went to Mel. They had high school camp, senior high camp, and I said

to Mel, "Hey, I got a telescope. I will be glad to come out and show the kids the moon and the planets." Mel cared nothing about astronomy, I guarantee you, but he saw the opportunity to draw me in. This is the guy that when he was, my mom and dad got mad at the preacher for something and did not go to church for years, so I grew up not going to church. Every Tuesday night was visitation, and Mel would send out a bunch of kids to my house, and I got so wise to it that I would sneak out the back door, and my mama would tell them, "He is not here." Well, one day I tried that, and I went out the back door, guess who was standing there? Mel Sabaka. He never gave up on me, and he saw that opportunity.

Do you know what he did? I went out to the camp. I did not know anything about camp, did not know anything about the Bible. He put me with Chuck Schuster. Chuck did not get to be here, they tried to get him to come, but he had work. But Chuck Schuster was the first guy, and I think Mel probably said, "Watch this guy, do not let him burn the camp down." But he became my partner in the Gospel and the star ministry, and for the next five years, we built the Gospel and the star ministry and traveled all through Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and preached the Gospel and the stars. It was in the process of that then God put Herb in my life. Herb took me making hospital calls. He took me on visitation. He showed me a love for people. I was getting the Bible from Sabaka, and Sabaka loved people, but he is the old school hard nose. I needed a balance in my life, and that was Herb. Herb would, one of the things I never forgot this, we would go into a visitation or something, and I did not know anything, and I am just along for the ride, but I wanted to learn, and he would be witnessing to somebody, and he knew I just got right with God, and right in the middle of that thing, he would just say, "Bob, Bob just got right with the Lord. Bob, why do not you tell him your testimony?" He made it easy for me.

Jim Lake is another one. Jim Lake became one of my best friends, and he helped me move out to Kansas City, and to this day, I probably have more respect for Jim Lake and what he did up there in New Hampshire, just incredible. He is just an incredible guy, and obviously with his wife being ill, he could not be here. He was in Vermont. But you know what, I do not want to, these states are so small up here, they all run together in and out of the river. But no, he is in Vermont.

Then you talk about the hand of God. Most of you do not know this. Joe came after I got right with the Lord, and Joe and I and his wife became great friends. In fact, you are married today to him because of me. Really, Burger King, but that is okay. In fact, I got you a little paper crown back here, I am going to get both of you. And some fries, ketchup too. Do not forget yours. My son-in-law, Danny, who is my associate pastor, and who thinks he is my associate pastor, no, I am just kidding. But it was when he was, back in the day, they had a high school camp out in Colorado. Shane Crawford, another of my sons in the Lord, I took the high school kids out there, this is back in the day in another church, and they had Joe come out and preach, and he preached at camp in Colorado, and during that week, Danny got saved through his preaching. See how the hand of God weaves its way down in people's lives? It is incredible. It is just incredible.

I look back at the blessings in my life, and all I have ever tried to do for anybody is what others have done for me. They taught me how to dig a well. Sabaka and Ruckman taught me how to dig it deep, but these guys taught me how to carve out the rock to store the water, cisterns of stone. I look back at the blessings of my life, and you just see the hand of God just moving down through

it in ways. God has allowed me to do the one thing that I do well, and that is to train young men and families and moms and dads in digging wells.

I cannot do what I used to do the way I used to do it. 50 years. I was thinking about this week, most guys retire, and they work at IBM or they work at some place and some businesses, and they put in 20, maybe 30 years, and then they retire. But their 20 years, 30 years is eight to five, five days a week. I got thinking, mine has been 50 years, 24/7. There has never been a day. I know a lot of pastors say, "Hey, I am off the clock at five, do not call me if you are going to die, die at 4:30." That has never been me. You call me in the middle of the night, you call me whenever, and it is the only way it can be. I know now that, hey, I am 70 years old, I maybe got 15, 20 years left if the Lord does not come. But you see, my blessing is that God has given me my family, and they can do now and pick up my slack and do what I cannot do anymore. Then God has given me all of you as my family, and you are my band of brothers, and we together have been in the mud and we have been in the blood, and you do for me what I cannot do for myself anymore. There is no way I could work with all the people that are being worked with, all the discipleship, all of the across the country, the Zoom things that you do, and all the things. I could not do that. God has given me you, my band of brothers, to help me in my last years, just as I have helped you in your early years, and together, we will get the job done.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

We are a team. Though I appreciate all this so much, I am just a guy who just wanted to do whatever God wanted me to do, and I learned from the people who helped me, and I would never take them for granted. They taught me that ministry is nothing more than me doing for you what they did for me, based on what God did for what they did for me, based on what God did for all of this. My verse for ministry has always been 1 Thessalonians 2:8. To me, that is my 50 years in the ministry. It is hard for me to put into words, but I thought this week, one thing that I could leave you with that hopefully would put it into a context for you:

Since I started for the kingdom, Since my life He controlled, Since I gave my life to Jesus, The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows. The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows. The more that I love Him, more love He bestows. Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows. The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.

Thank you not only for these days that we have together, but for all that many of you have invested with me in the greatest work that will ever be part of, and that is the ministry of Old Path Baptist Church. You, my band of brothers, for he this day who sheds his blood with me shall be my brother. Christ shed His blood for all of us, and now we shed our blood with each other as we serve Him. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know God will not give me another 50 years. I hope He does not give me another two. I hope the Lord comes back, or I have to run for president and straighten this place out. But thank you all of you for all that you mean to me, all that you have done, and let us just keep on doing what God has called us to do: digging wells and keeping the people that God gives us, teach them how to dig wells.

As we are dismissed here, head over to Jason's Deli, and then tonight at James, and then tomorrow night, Funhouse. Pick what you want to do. I hope that this has been fun for you. It has been fun for me. Let us have a word of prayer, and then we will be dismissed.

[Prayer]

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We thank You for all You do for us. Thank You for this church and for its stand on the Word of God. Truly, Lord, if it was not for You, none of us would ever have crossed paths. We would never be friends the way we are. We would never have each other to help each other, to be there for each other. I pray, Father, that You continue to open up and to bless the lives of Your people here as we stay faithful in an unfaithful world, as we stay true in a compromising Christianity to the Word of God, and teach and train others. Thank You for the lesson today. Thank You for the example of the great well, Jacob's well, and how it is a picture that shows how it is not just about that she found it. It shows us how that well came to be and how that water got to us. We thank You and praise You in Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.