

Series: Desire Overflow	Reference: Romans 15:13	Title: Free Flowing	Date: 07.04.2021
Website Writeup: This week we see Jesus in a very private intimate meeting with a Samaritan woman by the well. He's very open and clear with her about who she is, who He is, what she needs, and how only He can give it - Living Water!			

COLOR CHANGES IN TEXT INDICATE SLIDE CHANGES

(Intro slide up first)...We're centering our thoughts on desiring overflow...Romans 15:13...*May the God of hope fill you with all joy & peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

If you had a glass of dirty water, turn a faucet on, running water will eventually push any impurities out of the glass. The water will run clean in the cup. That's the idea of being filled to overflowing by the power of the Holy Spirit. That we're filled with the Living Word & in process are sanctified, transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ and that naturally overflows to anyone around us.

We're like a 5 tiered fountain with the Holy Spirit filling us up, overflowing to family & friends, into our community & the world at large.

Overflow is a natural process of being filled. It's not forced or awkward, it just happens as we place ourselves below the faucet - as you trust in Him. Whatever you're filled with overflows to others - which is a pretty exciting or scary thought depending on what you're filling yourself with.

Let's look at John 4 where Jesus meets a Samaritan woman - a great example of filling & overflow. In Jesus' day there was animosity between Jews & Samaritans. We start out with Jesus leaving Judea & returning to Galilee, but choosing to go through Samaria.

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

Through Samaria was the shortest route to Galilee, but not the only way. The other route was through Perea, east of the Jordan River. In Jesus' day, Jews, because of their hatred for Samaritans, since they considered them half-breeds & heretics, normally took the eastern route in order to avoid Samaria. But Jesus chose the route through that area.¹ Which shows us that Jesus wasn't afraid to engage the despised.

¹ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Jn 4:4). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

John 4:7-9...⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew & I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Not only would a rabbi not associate with a Samaritan, but he'd never speak to a woman. Jews were not even allowed to drink from the same container as a Samaritan (cf. Lev. 15). Jesus engages her. An outcast. A curt Samaritan woman, and we'll find out later, immoral as well, but with a thirst only Jesus can fill. She may have seemed indifferent, but there's a dissatisfaction in her. Some of us come to Jesus through a very immoral lifestyle. Others come to Jesus experiencing our need for Him through the empty efforts of doing good - Mother Theresa did all the good she could, but still experienced the 'dark night of her soul' which revealed her need for Jesus.

John 4:10...¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God & who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him & he would have given you living water.”

Jesus uses this simple context to lead her to understand her need. He uses the term 'living water' which she'd know right away he couldn't get from that well. That well was a cistern which caught rain water. But...living water would've had two meanings. Firstly, it would be running water like a stream. Secondly, it was a term associated with the Holy Spirit. He's playing on words, using the situation to address her dissatisfaction & thirst. It's not really about a drink, or water, but about how she tries to satisfy the thirst of her soul in unhealthy ways.

John 4:11-12...¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with & the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well & drank from it himself, as did also his sons & his livestock?”

In other words, 'You can't get living water here, what are you gonna do?' Jesus gets personal right off - He's saying I can give you the Holy Spirit who'll continue to satisfy & fill you to overflowing. But no one likes a person to get too personal at first meeting. Typically we deflect those conversations by throwing out a red herring. Did you know there's actually no such fish as a red herring. The term comes from the process of brining a fish which turned it reddish, usually a herring, and the process made the fish smell. They would use red herrings to train scent dogs and try to knock them off the real trail by using this smelly fish. So it came to be known as something used to divert someone from getting to the truth.

This woman's first inclination is to throw out a theological 'red herring' since she's uncomfortable with Jesus going deep so soon. It gets personal quickly, so she deflects. Her first red herring is a question, "Do you think you're greater than Jacob?" But Jesus stays on her scent. He answers her question & addresses her need by continuing with His illustration.

John 4:13-14...¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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.”

He answers her question without mentioning Jacob. He knows she has no satisfaction in life. The verb form in verse 13 suggests you have to come back again & again to drink water from that well, always working to satisfy your thirst - Jacob built a well that can only temporarily satisfy your bodily needs. But the verb form in verse 14, the water Jesus gives, suggests drinking only one time which satisfies thirst, and need from within forever. It's living water like a faucet which has been turned on in your life filling you to overflowing. It fills that longing in her heart which she's tried to fill with other things.

John 4:15...¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty & have to keep coming here to draw water.”

She's looking down at her circumstances, she doesn't get it, but He'll get her to look up at Him. Who can blame her, she has a difficult life, full of back breaking work. Jesus is going to help her understand, He's speaking of something deeper, of a thirst in her soul. Of satisfying that thirst in her which has brought her to a life of shame which He can take away. And in the next line He names the source of her shame.

John 4:16...¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” This woman had come alone to a distant well at an unusual time of day because of her social position in the village.² In other words, she wasn't just a Samaritan, and a woman whom Jesus shouldn't be talking to. She was promiscuous, living in shame in her community. She goes to this well at the height of the day to not have to deal with the stares & comments from others. The other women would go in the cool of the morning. She was an outcast.

By asking her to call her husband Jesus reveals her real thirst. A thirst to be loved & cared for, to be important & central in someones eyes - she has a hole in her heart. She has tried to satisfy that thirst, or fill that hole with men, but she's been unable to slake her thirst. She goes to that well, everyday for water, and also back to the well of men over & over again to satisfy her thirst for love. It'd be simplistic to call her a slut, no one's just a slut. We all react to a deep God given desire for acceptance, love & relationship which we seek to satisfy in a variety of ways. You may satisfy it in a different way, her avenue was men - if she's a slut, so are we. The question is, what do you seek to satisfy your thirst?

John 4:17...¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied. Not fully true...she does what we all do, she only answers enough to seem honest, but not divulge the whole truth because she's reacting out of years of shame others have heaped on her. She doesn't need another Jewish man making her feel worse about herself, she already feels it. But Jesus is on her

² Utley, R. J. D. (1999). *Vol. Volume 4: The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John*. Study Guide Commentary Series (43). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

scent...He's lovingly cornered her, He won't shame her, but He has to go there to reveal her true thirst. Which she doesn't yet realize is for His love & acceptance.

John 4:18...Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The 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."

He knows all about her without ever meeting. He sees right into the very core of her personal darkness confronting her on a failed life. However, although He doesn't condone her actions, he doesn't condemn her. Notice He's not showing her why she can't be in His company, but why she needs to be! He's speaking to her when others wouldn't, saying, "When everyone else shuns you, I accept you. I know you're just trying to satisfy a deep thirst for love, but you're doing it all wrong." He loves her as only He can.

But as we said before, when someone gets close to our heart, it hurts, so she throws out her second red herring. She brings up an age old argument between Jews & Samaritans, starting with a compliment. Hopefully that'll throw Him off!

John 4:19-20...¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

She refers to a theological argument as to where God should be worshiped. The Jews emphasized Mt. Moriah, the Samaritans, Mt. Gerizim.³ This would be the equivalent today of speaking with someone about what Jesus means to them & when the message starts to become too personal, they say, "Well, how can God be loving if there is so much suffering in the world?" She expected Him, as a Jewish man to start arguing from His side, to say that Samaritans don't know what they're talking about, but He doesn't quite do that. He gives her a surprising answer.

John 4:21-24...²¹"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming & has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit & in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit & in truth."

Jesus is saying, It's not 'Where' you worship, but 'Who'...and ironically, the 'Who' is sitting right in front of her. With Jesus the time came for a new order & era of worship. To worship in Truth is to worship God through Christ & the complete Scriptures which speak of Him (Samaritans only had certain Scriptures they believed in). To worship in Spirit is to worship in relationship with Him, to be filled with the Spirit of God.

³ Uteley, R. J. D. (1999). *Vol. Volume 4: The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John*. Study Guide Commentary Series (44). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

Everyone's a worshiper as Romans 1:25 says...²⁵*"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped & served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen."* Her worship centered around men, hoping they'd satisfy her need.

Yet she's a Samaritan & as such she was told to look to Mt Gerizim, a place, a concrete, objective thing, to wrap her thoughts around. **But God's looking for us to go beyond the objective place of worship to the subjective relationship with Jesus which gives true meaning to those objective things. Beyond trappings of religion to the person of Jesus. Objectively, we can know a person. So & so is 5' 6" tall, have brown hair, etc. However, to know them subjectively is to have emotional connection with them - to explore who they are as a person which is a bottomless & expansive well of soul.**

That's what she's being confronted with - she's known the objective *concept* of God, pointing to Mt Gerizim which has left her thirsty. One reason is because Samaritans only had half the truth, and we know half the truth is only a lie. Just like coming to church would leave you wanting more until you go beyond that & are truly filled by the free flowing well of Jesus which gives meaning to the objective things you experience. In her mind, God's for the religious. She's just a woman trying to get by, left feeling empty & used, filling that thirst with men. But now she's faced with, not only the objective Jesus sitting before her - but she's hearing His heart beside a well! And it's not the usual message of shame she knows so well from this Jewish man, but one of love, acceptance & hope!

Maybe it sounded too good to be true & to assure herself of what she's hearing, she says in John 4:25-26...²⁵ *The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."* ²⁶ *Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you - I am he."*

There it is...I'm God in the flesh, that Messiah. Not a religion, but a person who wants to be in relationship with you. Here to fill that thirst you've tried to satisfy your whole life! Even you, a promiscuous Samaritan woman whom everyone else rejects, I accept! I'm here for you, shunned & living in shame. Jesus satisfied her thirst & can ours as well. He waits at the well to draw out living water which meets all our needs. Do we allow Him to flow so freely to us? Or, do we keep running back to the well of our idols, worshipping things which keep us going back & forth to fill our water jars over & over? It's back breaking tiring work which never fully satisfies.

This woman didn't seem to be seeking, but Jesus engaged her. He placed Himself right next to the well of what she thought satisfied her. He lovingly confronted her on her need. Jesus will place Himself right beside that well you draw from & offer you a different drink. Will you take it?

This story concludes with this (John 4:28-30), ²⁸*Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town & said to the people,* ²⁹*"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Did He really tell her everything? NO! But that's what it feels like*

to her, because she finally feels known. It continues...*Could this be the Messiah?*" ³⁰*They came out of the town & made their way toward him.*

As she's filled, she overflows to anyone around her. She'd probably never heard the word evangelist, but she became one. She didn't have a seminary degree, she didn't speak every detail of the Gospel to them, but she did invite them to come & meet Jesus - she introduced people to Him out of overflow. The result was (John 4:39-42)...³⁹*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."* ⁴⁰*So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.* ⁴¹*And because of his words many more became believers.* ⁴²*They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."*

She was filled by the person of Jesus. She overflowed to others. They were filled & overflowed to others - if it were possible to trace back our spiritual heritage, I wonder if any of us were a direct result of this encounter?

We just had a Share Your Faith Workshop. We'll be doing a follow up meeting concerning that, and practice of it. Anyone will be invited to that, even if you didn't attend the first workshop. But you can learn all the mechanics of how to share the Gospel, however, it's better for the joy, peace & hope of Jesus to overflow from within you, as you trust in Him stepping out in faith & drawing others in.