

An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



9- Getting Fresh Water in our House - Digging the Wells...Genesis 26:17-22

Man we are moving forward in our house building analogy. Today we will look at one of the most important things that any house can have, fresh water.

We use water for a multitude of things, drinking, cooking, bathing, washing clothes, cleaning, watering plants, freezing into ice among other things. So I think we could agree that water is important in our physical lives.

What about our spiritual lives? Fresh water is spoken of in the Bible in many ways. We often read about the water of life.

God is the source of the water of life. **Psa 36:9** *For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*

The water of life flows from Christ according to **Joh 4:14** *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.;*

We as believers should be a channel for fresh water. Notice **Joh 7:38** *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

Vivian H., for 2 and a half years lived in a home without running water. She had to drive to a spring and load up five gallon jugs to haul back home. All the while there was a perfectly good well with a 600 gallon reservoir on her property. The water was there, she didn't know it could be used.

We all have the resource for fresh water in our lives if we are believers. Fresh Water is within reach of everyone today. The question is will we do what we need to

do to dig our wells so that fresh water can flow freely into and out of our lives.

Our text today is found in **Genesis 26:17-22** *And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. 18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. 19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. 20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him. 21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. 22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.*

I- Background:

Abraham is dead and Isaac is living in area of Canaan. There is again famine in the land and he is instructed to not go to Egypt as Abraham had done. **Gen 26:1.** He instead goes to Abimelech, king of the Philistines and settles in Gerar. **Gen 26:6.**

He tells the same lie that his father had told that being that his wife was his sister. **Gen 26:7.** When he is seen with her,

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the king knows the truth. After a season of crops in which God blessed Isaac greatly the Philistines were jealous and stopped up the wells that Abraham his father had dug. **Gen 26:14-15.** Abimelech asked him to move away. **Gen 26:16.** So Isaac moved away and settled in the valley of Gerer.

II- Applications:

We see that the Philistines filled in the wells with dirt. This compares to our spiritual wells being allowed to fill with dirt. (**26:14-15.**) As Isaac dug the well of his father we to need to unstop or dig our spiritual wells.

The dirt that we have allowed in and that Satan has filled our wells with is the dirt of sin. Paul speaking of those who have walked by faith in the past said, **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which cloth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" Heb 12:1**

Remember **John 7:38** says, **"...out of his[our] belly shall flow rivers of living water."** We know that Jesus is the living water that is needed for a dry thirsty land.

III- Wells we need to Unstop:

During this time we will look at what clogs the well and then what we need to do to unstop or dig the spiritual well. May God allow fresh water to run into our lives today.

A- Well of Compassion:

1- Clog:

a- Selfishness: Jesus speaking concerning the time of judgment to come said in **Matt 25:43** **"I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and**

ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not " There are times when we allow our own selfishness to prevent us from doing what we need to do for others,

b- Worldly Cares: We all have our concerns of making a living. May I say that if you are a child of God's and your job prevents you from serving Him it is not God will.

We all have our well of compassion stopped up by an attitude of, **"not wanting to get involved."** We turn our heads at time to needs of others.

c- Judging: Rom 14:13 says, **"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."** Sometimes we are so full of our spirituality that we fail to relate to others as what we are as well as them, SINNERS.

2- How to Dig:

a- Through Prayer: Unstopping this well will take *effort*. It is not easy to be concerned, as a matter of fact it is extreme work. It is not like human flesh to do this but it is like God. Many are afraid to ask God to make us more concerned? Are we afraid of the commitment it will take from us?

b-Through Practice: By recognizing we as humans can be selfish, unconcerned, judgmental and try not to let Satan have the victory because of our lack of compassion.

B- Well of Communication:

1- Clog:

a- With Men- Pride I'm right and you are wrong attitude. I'm better than you attitude. This closes the ears of those we are trying to reach. It stops up the well of communication.

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b- With God- Unconfessed Sin... "Unconfessed sin is not hid from God."

Satan likes for us to be burdened down with sins that we carry because he knows if we confess them then God will forgive them and we can again be productive. Sin hinders prayer life and fellowship with God and others. Notice **Isaiah 59:1-2** *Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

2- How to Dig:

a- With Men- Remember the TV show Happy Days where Fonzie could never say he was wrong or that he was sorry.

We need to learn to say I was wrong, I'm sorry, give up right to be right.

In our text Isaac moved alone three times to another well.

Love is quick to reconcile. When we hold onto hurts and won't be reconciled to others it says more about us than them.

Phil 2:3 *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."*

b- With God- Confession This bring me to the next well we need to unstop. We spoke of this in our last session as well.

C- Well of Confession:

1- Clog:

a- Guilt of Sin. Remember we said Satan don't want us to confess our unconfessed sins. Guilt of sin drags us down and we can even get to the point that we are ashamed to ask God to forgive us. We are afraid that He won't.

2- How to Dig:

a- Take God at His word- I John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

However we see that God has a place for us if we will keep on trying. Isaac **stated**, *"For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land"* **Gen26:22** Might I remind us that if God had not been a forgiving God Christ would never have gone to Calvary. He is a God who forgives the sins of men. When we confess our sins it is us that is admitting them and not a surprise to God. He will never say I didn't know you did that.

D- Well of Consecration:

Webster defines consecration as "To set apart for sacred use; to dedicate"

1- Clog:

a- Compliance- Christians look like the world; tell jokes like the world and talk like the world. Someone said there is so much of the world in the church you can't tell us apart from them.

b- Sidetracked from God Will and Purpose: Even with good things. Lets not get so busy doing good things that we fail to do the best thing, God's thing.

2- How to Dig:

2 Cor 6:16-18 says, *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God, as God bath said; I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be aye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my saris and daughters,*

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saith the Lord Almighty. "

a- By cleaning up our walk in the world's eyes. Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen over great wealth; favor is better than silver and gold.

b- By getting back to God's will and timed schedule. This brings me to the last well...

E- Well of Faith:

1- Clog:

a- Human effort: One thing that fights against faith constantly is when we begin to see only what we can do with our effort.

What if I told you that in the next five years we would need to raise between 2 and 3 million dollars to pay off our church and build another church because our current facilities would become inadequate.

In today's dollars that is probably a conservative estimate to begin to build what our forefathers built that we are in today. What if they had their wells of faith stopped up? Where would we be today? One of the greatest challenges that we face in affluent America is never truly see in our lifetime a great act of faith in God when faith is exercised and God moves.

b- No Vision of moving forward:

The Message says in **Prov 29:18** "**If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.**"

One of the great principles in the work by Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God* is that God is always at work around us we just need to learn to recognize it and get involved.

We are told in **Hebrews 11:6** **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

2- How to Dig:

a- By realizing God wants to do more than we are capable of. I don't know about you but I want to see a God sized task accomplished not just what we can do with our human strength. Remember **Philippians 4:13** **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

b- By becoming sensitive to the movement of God around us.

Conclusion:

Satan will strive against us to prevent us unstopping our wells. **Gen 16:18, 20.** However, we see that God has a place for us if we will keep on trying. Isaac stated, "**For now the Lord hath made room for us...**" **Gen 26:22**

Joh 7:37 ...Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

There is fresh water if we will let it flow and receive it.