



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary
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How to Find Abundant Life John 4:10-19

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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 (John 4:13-14—KJV).

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14—NASB).

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14—NRSV).

In John 10:10, Jesus declared, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Nicodemus thought he could have the abundant life by laboriously obeying the religious rules and regulations of religious teachers past and present. But Nicodemus found abundant life only after he believed in Jesus and began to follow him. After Jesus died on the cross, Nicodemus showed his loyalty by helping Joseph of Arimathea with Jesus’ burial. On the other hand, the Samaritan woman thought she could have the abundant life by focusing on this present world. She tried to find satisfaction in a succession of intimate affairs, officially sanctioned or not, that never began or ended well. So, she went alone to draw water from Jacob’s well in the heat of the noonday sun, where she met Jesus. She knew that

materialistic living had not brought happiness, but after she met Jesus, believed the spiritual truths He shared with her, and accepted Him as the promised Messiah, she received eternal life. Drinking water is necessary to sustain physical life no matter how laborious to draw from a well. Drinking spiritual water is necessary to sustain spiritual life, but faith in Jesus is not laborious. Jesus promised that He would give spiritual water to those who believed in Him. By spiritual water, Jesus meant the Holy Spirit, who would so satisfy Jesus’ followers that they would have the abundant life and never need a spiritual substitute.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Jesus did not want to talk to the Pharisees who had heard that He was baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist?
2. Why do you think Jesus had to go through Samaria?
3. What was important about the place where Jesus rested?
4. How did John describe the fact that Jesus is fully human and fully divine?
5. Why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?