

The Lesson of Dissatisfaction

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

John 4:13

It all began long ago in the Garden of Eden; by Adam's disobedience mankind would be subject to a life filled with disappointments. In His mercy, though the world would be subject of a curse, God would provide elements and situations that would bring joy and temporary contentment; but until eternal life is restored, all of earth's pleasures would be fleeting. The cycle of desires being only temporarily filled is suppose to create a longing for something that truly and lastingly satisfies. That "thing" that everyone is seeking is everlasting life with our God.

Though the events and instructional verses recorded in the Scriptures occurred long ago, they are filled with many lessons that are applicable for our lives today. The common occurrence of man seeking something that he thinks will satisfy only to find disappointment in the end is repeated over and over. Did Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of pottage to his brother Jacob really satisfy his hunger? How content was Achan when he stole from the spoils of Jericho only to be found out and bring destruction on himself and his family? Did Amnon's lustful desire to have his own sister satisfy him? And after his evil deed was done, his lust for her immediately turned to hate. You would think that being king of Israel would be enough to satisfy someone, yet king Ahab steals the vineyard of Naboth thinking it will bring contentment. This selfish act is what eventually brings his doom. Solomon of all people should have been content; he had wealth, fame, and wisdom and yet he recorded that all is vanity. He sums up the futility of trying to satisfy the flesh in two verses found in Ecclesiastes. *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. (Eccl. 5:10). All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. (Eccl 6:7).*

The verse in today's text is from the account famously known as "the woman at the well". This interaction between Jesus and the unnamed woman begins with a conversation about a well of water. Our Lord tactfully turns the conversation to talk about a living water that will quench all thirst. After Jesus reveals some things that are glaringly wrong with her unfulfilled life, He reveals who He is and that he is able to give this living water.

As God's children we will continue to have desires in this life, but we must always remember that the Lord himself is our greatest source of satisfaction. We will ultimately be satisfied when we awake with His likeness. ~ J. Ekis