

Vessels, with a Water pot Mentality

John 4:7-42

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Romans 9:21-26

Isaiah 64:8 – But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. (KJV)

A Deeper Understanding of the Scriptures:

John 4:7-10

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

1. A woman of Samaria came equipped to draw water.
2. Jesus broke the silence with a request for a drink.
 - A. It was a natural request in view of his weariness. Whether the request was fulfilled or not (the latter seems more probable), it led to conversation. The departure of the disciples was providential, for the woman would not have entered into discussion with Jesus in their presence.
 - B. Two things amazed the woman: that Jesus would make such a request of a woman, for a rabbi avoided contact with women in public; and particularly that he would speak thus to one who was a Samaritan. Remember, Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.
 - i. The Jews despised the Samaritans because they were a mixed people in blood and in religion, who nevertheless possessed the Pentateuch and professed to worship the God of Israel.
 - ii. A narrower meaning has been proposed for the woman's saying — "Jews do not make common use (of vessels) with Samaritans." [Rabbinic Judaism]
3. In his reply Jesus moved away from his own need to suggest that the woman had one which was deeper, one he was able to supply through the gift of God.

John 4:7-10

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

1. Water from the well had to be consumed again and again, but the water Christ dispenses will so satisfy that one shall never thirst. Such is the refreshment of everlasting life.
2. A parallel may be drawn with the repeated sacrifices of the old covenant and the one-for-all sacrifice of the Lamb of God.
3. Still misunderstanding, but now receptive, the woman asked for such water, that her lot might be easier.

John 4:16-18

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

1. Before the woman could receive the gift of living water, she had to be made to realize how desperately she needed it.
2. Thy husband . . . no husband. . . five husbands. . . not thy husband. The dreary history of her marital life was unfolded by Jesus' penetration and by her own admission.
 - A. Many have often questioned what her past had to do with anything, but it is not necessary her past as much as it is her admitting it or another words...her confessing her sins:

Rom 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

I Jn 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I Jn 4:15 - Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

John 4:19-20

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

1. To the woman, Jesus was first a Jew, and then one entitled to be called Sir, and now a prophet. He had looked into her soul.
2. The reference to worship on nearby Mount Gerizim, established in competition to that of the Jews at Jerusalem, may have been a diversionary tactic, but more likely it was an indication of a heart hunger to know the way to God.

John 4:25-26

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?

1. The disciples marveled that Jesus would break convention by talking with the woman. But reverence for their teacher kept them from open questioning.
2. She did more than Jesus asked, going not to one man, but to the men of the place with the news of her exciting experience. She did not presume to teach them, but put a thought in their minds, phrased tentatively: Is this, perchance, the Christ? The men were sufficiently impressed to go along with her to the well.

John 4:27-30

In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

1. Meanwhile the disciples pressed Jesus to take food, but he declined on the ground that he had nourishment of which they were ignorant. This, he explained, was the doing of God's will.
2. He had been doing this in their absence, and he had done it in the light of the cross, where he would finish God's appointed work. His ministry was one of both sowing and reaping. Four months till harvest would be a normal expectation in the natural realm, but by lifting up their eyes the disciples could see a harvest already white (the approaching Samaritans), the result of his sowing.
3. In spiritual work, sower and reaper are ordinarily different persons, who rejoice together in what their combined efforts have accomplished. Here in Samaria and in many other situations the disciples, although not the sowers of the seed, might reap. Others may include Jesus and the woman of Samaria. In a sense even Moses may belong here, as being humanly responsible for implanting the seed of Messianic expectation in the heart of the woman.

John 4:39-42

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

1. Here we learn of the fruit which Christ and the woman were able to gather as sower and reaper. Many believed on the Lord because of the woman's testimony. This led to an invitation to stay in their midst, which Christ consented to do for two days. During those days, others who had heard the woman's testimony and had been inclined to believe in Jesus became full-fledged believers because of what they received through his own word or we could say from Jesus' own lips. Saviour of the world —a grateful confession, since it meant that Samaritans as well as Jews could be saved.

Let's Imagine:

- Many of you now ask what does a Vessel with a Water pot Mentality has to do with the scriptures that we have read. (Acting the scene out with descriptions)

Overcoming the Water pot Mentality:

1. Why was it when the disciples went to town for the food they returned and nothing had changed because of their presence?
2. We all must agree surely that they would have had some kind of affect, because these are the ones who were with Jesus daily and at night, listening and witnessing his teachings and often miracles.
3. Why is it that she came to the well with a need (water), ready to draw from the well, but at the end of her conversation she left her water pot behind (v. 28).

WATERPOT

(Gk. hudria). A large vessel of stone in which water was kept standing for the sake of cleansing, which the Jews practiced before and after meals. The "water pot" mentioned in was a jar of earthenware in which water was carried from the well in order to be contained and held for storage.

VESSEL

Any kind of container or receptacle. The vessels of the Hebrew people were usually earthenware. But vessels of glass, metal, leather, wicker, and stone were not uncommon. They were used to hold everything from documents to wine, fruits, and oil.

In a broader sense, ships are sometimes referred to as vessels since they are the receptacles of people. In an even broader sense, vessel refers to people who

carry within them the knowledge of God < 2 Cor 4:6-7 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*> Vessels were created and designed for a specific purpose...to contain, carry, and pour out from...never to hold on to something for a period of time unlike the water pot.

Conclusion:

As God began to open up this revelation I began to understand the mentality of the Children of God. Many of you today realize that as a child of God you are a vessel in which to be used for God's glory. If you have studied God's word you might have come across some scriptures concerning your role as a vessel or you might have even heard your Pastor or Sunday School Teacher mention it before. But, this past Wednesday night and on into Thursday morning the Lord began to deal with me and the Vessels mentality.

Today's Christian is merely a vessel with water pot issues:

1. Remember the Disciples who went to town for food and left no mark of their presence. – This is clearly a state of mind of many today...Let's go get what we need and nothing else, just remain focused on what we need.
2. Remember the fact that the woman left her pot...

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

“Left” (Hebrew/Greek definition) cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up.

Many of you came to church to get refilled, refreshed, or revived, but you and I must understand that we will never achieve those things unless we first sit those water pot issues down. The things that are holding you back, God can not fill you until there first comes and emptying. In order for something to come into your life, something must first come out of your life.