

Reflections Reflections from God's Word

by Kay Neff

WHEN GOD ASKS

*Jesus said to her,
"Give Me a drink."
John 4:7*

She came alone at noon to the well (v 6). He was there. She came to draw water—an everyday chore. He asked for a drink—an ordinary request (v 7).

The well was deep, and it would require work to satisfy His thirst. She knew this well; after all, her ancestry went back to Jacob who had given the well. This man was but a mere passerby. He disregards the well and offers her water that would last forever: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (v 10). Confining the offer to the limits of her understanding, she says, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep...." (v 11).

You and I are like her. We approach Him in the heat of the day, unaware that we are dying of thirst, defending the well of our own resources. For her it was the well of tradition passed on from her ancestors: "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well..." (v 12)? What well are you defending—family position, self image, choices made without regard for God, a religious upbringing? Do you see Jesus as a mere passerby in your circumstances?

He had an eternal solution. She was focused on a temporary fix. Which would you rather have? "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw" (v 15). Missing the point, she relegates His offer of life-giving water to the level of her daily experience. Her attitude from long ago rings true today. How often do we filter His words through the lens of our preconceived options, our own abilities, our creative ingenuity?

He pierces her heart with a personal observation: "You have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband..." (v 18). Changing the subject, she brings up religion: "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place..." (v 20). When God lays His finger on something personal in your life through His Word, the admonishment of another believer, or the inner conviction of your conscience, what is your reaction? Switch topics, rationalize, justify unacceptable behavior, denial, self-defense? We all have a favorite. The importance rests not on the excuse but on the willingness to make the correction.

continued

He made a simple request, she received an extraordinary reply and left transformed. Addressing Him she said, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us” (v 25). Jesus responded, “I who speak to you am He” (v 26). Persuaded His declaration was true, she received the living water of new life. Leaving her water pot, she went home proclaiming Jesus, saying “Come and see...” and “from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified” (v 39).

Perhaps He has given you the water of new life. Or set you free from past guilt, the unwillingness to forgive, maybe a prideful attitude, a self-centered agenda, a long held prejudice, or unchecked anger? What do you need to share with those around you so that because of your word many might believe?

He asked the woman, “Give Me a drink” (v 7). What is He asking you?

