

When Life is Out of Our Control

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." -John 4:10

I have been thinking about the woman and the well. She can teach us so much. Jesus turned her isolated life into a life that reached out to others telling the Good News of Jesus. She also teaches us how the living waters of Christ can fill our lives. In these days of separation from one another, we run the risk of retreating into lonely places that will make our lives as brittle as dry grass. How do we prevent isolation and emptiness?

Pastor Steve McVey told a story about a Scotsman named Henry who had visited some friends in the highlands. Preparing to leave, Henry's friends offered him the use of their coach to take him to the train station, but they cautioned Henry, "Our coachman is a wonderful man but he has been defeated by drink. We were hoping that you might have an opportunity to say something to him that will help him."

So, when the carriage pulled around Henry climbed up onto the seat next to the coachman. And as they drove along Henry engaged the driver in an in-depth conversation about his spiritual life. The coachman confessed the many mistakes and failures in his life. Like a fool, he had repeated the same mistakes over and over again. His heart was heavy, his life dry, and he wondered if he could ever change.

"Suppose that as we rode along these curves and hills", said Henry, "suppose the horses you are driving somehow got out of control, and you realized you could not manage them. However, you suddenly remembered the man sitting next to you was the finest horseman in Scotland and that there had never been a team of horses which he could not control. What would you do?"

"Oh," exclaimed the coachman, "is that what Christ expects me to do?"

"Exactly!" replied Henry. Turn the reins of your life over to him!"

That's the kind of experience this woman at the well had the day she encountered Jesus. She gave over her emptiness to Christ and he filled her with living water. Some of us have been riding along with Jesus for a long time and we've forgotten that he handles the reins better than anyone. We've forgotten the possibilities He offers us. Let us give these days of isolation and emptiness over to Jesus. He has control, and He will fill our hearts and our souls and refresh our lives with living water.

In Christ,

Rev. Dell King
Interim Associate Pastor

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