

11324 sunday morning

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Go with me over to the book of Deuteronomy chapter 11. Deuteronomy chapter 11, begin reading in verse 26. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.

A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day. And a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way, which I command you this day, to go after other gods which you have not known. Go over with me to John chapter 4. Remembering that passage of scripture as we move into this passage of scripture.

John chapter 4, beginning in verse 1, very familiar passage. I'm hoping if the Lord will help me and allow me, I would like to take it in a little different direction this morning and deliver to you just what the Lord has put on my heart this whole week to deliver this morning. John chapter 4, begin reading in verse 1. Keep your Bibles open, we're going to be looking at a lot.

When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, though Jesus himself baptized not but his disciples, he left Judea and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well, and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water.

Jesus saith unto her, give me to drink. Look back up at verse 5. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar. Now if you go back to what we read earlier in Deuteronomy, where God spoke through Moses to the children of Israel as they were about to go into the promised land, he said to them in that moment, this day I put before you a blessing and a curse.

It's up to you to choose which one you want. If you stick with me and you stay with the way that I command you to stay, you're going to move into the great blessings that I have prepared for you. But if you choose to go after other gods, you choose to go after other idols, you're going to bring upon yourself a curse.

Now fast forward with me here to John chapter 4. We read of how Jesus was going into Galilee. He felt the need that he had to go through Samaria, which we well know was a very taboo thing for Jews to do back in that day and time. But on this particular day, Jesus goes in to Samaria and he came to the city called Sychar, which translated means falsehood and drunkenness.

That city, that place was named after lies and intoxication. I want you to remember that. That

city where those people were living was no doubt named after something that had happened many centuries earlier.

It had a reputation, a bad reputation, a dark reputation. That's why they named it Sychar. In the old Bible, it was called Shechem.

I believe that back in the day, there must have been a lot of revelry that went on. There must have been a lot of debauchery that went on for it to have such a name as falsehood and intoxication or drunkenness. We read that there was a well there, Jacob's well.

We could go into all that, but we're not going to. We go on and we read of how Jesus went to Jacob's well and he sat on the well, which was about noontime when he went. And here come a woman from Samaria.

Now I want you to remember that it was customary for the women of Samaria to go to the well at six in the morning, at six at night. They did not go to the well at 12. They went in the morning and they went at night.

But this lady was an outcast of sorts. This lady was not well-loved nor accepted by the people of her town. So she went to the well by herself.

We go on and we read of how she gets to that well and we know the dialogue. We can go through the dialogue. Jesus tells her, give me something to drink.

In that moment, that woman from Samaria looked at him and said, my goodness, why would somebody like you have something to do with me, a Samaritan woman? You're not supposed to have anything to do with people like me. Jesus said, if you knew exactly who it was, you're talking to, you would say to me, give me what you got to drink because I can give you living water. The woman answers back to him in the natural.

See, one of the things if you go through and read this, Jesus is always speaking in the spiritual, but the woman is natural minded. She keeps bringing things back to the natural. When Jesus said that to her, the woman said to him, you ain't got nothing to even draw water with.

Not on top of that, this well is super deep. How are you going to get in there and get me this living water that you're talking about? Are you greater than Jacob, the one who built this well? Jesus comes back to her with a spiritual answer and he said, whoever drinks of this water is going to drink again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I give him shall never thirst again. In that moment, she's still thinking naturally.

In that moment, she says back to him, I would like to have that water so I don't ever thirst again and I don't ever have to come back to this well. No doubt she was thinking in that moment, if I can get a hold of that water, I don't have to worry about my shame. I don't have to worry about being an outcast.

I won't even have to come back to this well because she was still thinking in the natural. But I want you to listen. Jesus said to her, go, call thy husband and come hither.

The woman said, I have no husband. Jesus said, thou hast well said. You've had five husbands.

The one you have now is not your husband. In that, you set us now truly. Now listen, this is where I'm trying to get to.

Verse 19, again, she changes the subject. Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Now listen, our fathers worshipped in this mountain.

Stop right there. Now listen to me. Remember in Deuteronomy, we read this day, I put before you a blessing and a cursing.

In the first part of this passage of scripture, we read of how this well was situated in a town called Sychar. Know this today, that Sychar, the valley of drunkenness, the valley of lies, the valley of intoxication, lies situated between the two mountains referenced to in Deuteronomy. There's the Mount of Gerizim, which was on one side, which was the Mount of Blessing.

And there's the Mount of Ebal that's on the other side, which is the Mount of Cursing. And right smack dab in the middle of it is the valley. Woman said, y'all always said we should worship here.

You've always said we should worship here. Y'all say Jerusalem, we say this mountain. Jesus went back to her and told her, responded back with one of our most famous verses that we like to quote.

The tower is coming now is when they that worship the Lord must worship him in spirit and in truth. God is a spirit. They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

But what I want to tell you this morning, that right there in that valley of intoxication, then that valley of drunkenness, in that valley of lies and falsehood stood the woman of Samaria. She had a choice between blessings and cursings. In that moment, she had a choice between the blessings of God and the curse of the world.

I'm here to tell you this morning, you have a choice to make. Every one of you in this house have a choice to make. You can move with the blessings of God in your life or you can choose to go the way of the world and the way of the crowd and move into the curses that'll cost you your soul.

Listen to me every day. It is estimated every day. Adults make anywhere from 33 to 35,000 decisions.

Every one of us. And I started thinking about this. That's true.

You're laying in that bed in the morning. It's time to get up. You finally decide to open your

eyes.

You lay there for a little bit. You finally decide to swing your feet off the bed. From there, everything we do is decisions.

We make decisions on are we going to drink a cup of coffee now? Are we going to take it with us when we get in our car on the way to work? Are we going to wear this today? Are we going to wear that today? Are we going to find time to pray this morning? Are we going to have to wait and push it off to a later time this evening? We decide. We think about what we're going to say. And then we think about how am I going to say it? How am I going to use my tone in this interaction? Am I going to go to McDonald's? Am I going to go to Hardee's? Am I going to address this? Or am I going to let it go? There's a thing now that's called decision fatigue that sets in on adults.

By mid-afternoon, that's why I think a lot of times, husbands and wives, by the time they're back together in the evening, one of them says, where do you want to go eat? The other one says, I don't care. The other one says, well, you tell me. I don't care.

Neither one of them wants to make the decision because they're tired of making decisions all day long. Everything we do in life boils down to decisions that we make. Sister Carol, every choice that we make, I can't blame it on Jennifer.

Jennifer can't blame it on me. It's my decisions. And as sure as I'm standing here today, I've come by to tell you, you've got a decision every day that you meet, every day that you get up, every day that you raise your hands and raise your head, you can choose the blessings of God or you can choose the curses.

Just like he said to them, just like he said to them, this day, I set before you blessings and cursings. I could hear the words of Joshua, choose you this day who you're going to serve. I could hear the voice of the prophet Joel.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision. My blessed Lord, the reason our churches aren't walking in victory is because we're not choosing victory to walk in. I'm here to tell you, if you want to see the church rise up again, we got to start making right decisions, brother John.

We can play all day long, Roger. We can play all day long. We can say it's because of this.

We can say it's because of that. That when I stand before the throne of that holy God, I'm going to give an account for Kenny and the decisions that I've made. I'm here to tell you, sadly, there's been times in my life where I probably chose curses because of my mindset.

There was probably times in my life I chose defeat instead of victory, but I know that God has set before us today, life and death, blessings and curses. What do you choose? So many are in Sychar, that place of drunkenness and intoxication. Oh, but brother Kenny, you ain't talking to me.

I don't drink. Let's talk about that for a moment. Intoxication, we equate it with alcohol and drugs, but a definition of intoxicated means the state of being controlled or affected by an outside unnatural source.

You say, well, Kenny, that still don't help me understand what you're looking at, what you're trying to say. I want you to think about this. If you got your Bibles, flip over to Luke chapter 21.

Luke chapter 21, we're going to read verse 34. Let me ask you a question before we read this. I don't want to show a hand, but you that's here, that's been drunk or messed up in your mind before, where did it affect you when you were drunk or messed up? I don't care.

Y'all know my testimony. It affected my mind. This is where it affected me.

Anytime I got messed up, my mind was affected. Do y'all agree with me on that? Bear with me. Luke 21, 34.

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged, which means to be heavy burdened or weighted down with surfeiting. I had to look that up. You know what that is? Surfeiting is a type of headache caused by intoxication and drunkenness, right? And cares of this life.

What did he say? Did he say your mind? He said your heart. There's an intoxication that's creeping into the children of God. That's weighing us down.

We're worried about our families. We're worried about our lost children to the point it's binding us down and it's stealing our victory. There is an intoxication we're so consumed with our husband or our spouse that's given us all kinds of trouble, that's running so hard from the Lord.

We're so preoccupied with this stuff that's happening on the job, Brother Daniel. This stuff that's tearing us up that's happening on the job. We're so consumed because our families are struggling in this way.

Our families are struggling in that way. We're so wrapped up. We're so burdened down.

We have become intoxicated and allowed our hearts to become intoxicated. We're even bearing a headache of sorts, a spiritual headache because our hearts are so burdened down and intoxicated. We're right there in the valley of Sychar, but I'm here to tell you there's still a well in that place of drunkenness.

There's still a well in that place of falsehood. The devil's lied to you long enough. He's ran over you long enough.

It's time you put him under your feet where he belongs. My blessed Lord, we have listened to the devil long enough. We've listened to him more than we've listened to the promises of God.

I'm here to tell you, Brother Terry, it's time we shift gears. I don't care what the situation looks

like. If he said you're an overcomer, you're an overcomer.

If he said by his stripes you're healed, by his stripes you are healed. Let me tell you, when you drink of the right well in the valley of Sychar, there's going to be a change, not just in you, not just in you, but in those around you. Go back to John chapter 4. Bring you up to speed.

Jesus had revealed himself, told her, I am he. Listen to me. Verse 28, the woman then left her water pot and went her way into the city and saith to the men, come see a man which told me all things that ever I did.

Is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came unto him. Let me tell you, when you get this thing right and you get a hold of that living water, it ain't going to stay contained. Not only is it going to change and affect you, but it's going to change and affect the ones you tell.

When they see that change in your life, they're going to do one of two things. The devil's going to make them madder or they're going to make their way to God. Sister Ashley, you wonder why they're fighting you at college? They've seen a change in you, sister.

They've seen something and it's bothering them. It's bothering them what they're seeing. Let me tell you, when you drink the water, the living water, it's not just for you, but it streams for all those around you.

Blessed Lord. So this day, you've got a choice. You can stay in Sychar.

You can move to the Mount of Blessing. You can move to the Mount of Cursing. I love the part where it said she left her water pot.

Oh, my Lord. Let me say this real quick. You know why our people ain't getting the help they need.

They want to blame God, but yet they're leaving with the water pot still in tow. They're leaving. They're running to the well, but they're not giving it all to God.

If they gave it all to God, Sarah, they would have left the water pot at the well. My blessed Lord, if you're looking for something in the Lord and you ain't found that breakthrough, maybe you still got a hold of your water pot. But, oh, when she believed on Him, when she believed on Him, she put her faith in Christ.

She didn't need that water pot anymore. Can you say amen? Where are you? Where are you? Are you living in the blessings? Are you living in faith or are you walking in doubt? When you go to the Lord, you go to the Lord and say, Lord, I need you to do it this way and I don't know why you're not. Or can you go to the Lord and say, Lord, I trust you no matter how it goes.

I'd like to see it go this way, but I'll let you do it ever how you want to do it. Let me tell you, when you get a hold of the living water and those streams are flowing out of you, I'm here to

tell you, when you get a hold of the living water, everything's different. Can you say amen?

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