

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 26

Title: Vote of No Confidence

...he was contrasting himself with the thieves. He said the thieves does not come but to steal, to kill and to destroy but he has come to give life, and not just to give life alone, life in its grand state, life in his just by and by. He says life in abundance. That is it!

It is not just this God that does not want us to have life, but just have a water that is just there alone. He wants us to have the living water and that was what he was making a strong case for this woman in John Chapter 4 as you have been following us all these while on the Bucket Ministry Series. And today I don't know the episodes, we have a lot to grind on, a lot to listen to.

And so today we are going to kick off from verse 12 as we have known from our last transmission and where we are still in the wisdom of God in this conversation that Jesus was having with this woman.

So please follow us as we go back to verse 12. Would you like us...

Yeah, I think we've actually gone to 13th verse.

Viewers all over the world, we welcome you again to the Bucket Ministry Series where we are drawing out the implication of the gospel. It means if you have heard the gospel, if you believe the gospel, if you are born again, we blessed God for your life, but do you understand the truth of what you have received?

In the kingdom of God things only work when we understand what we have received. That is why we are on this Bucket Ministry Series, and we are using the discuss between this woman – the Samaritan woman and Jesus as the platform to project revelation knowledge.

So welcome again to another episode.

Now, in our last transmission we stopped in the 13th and the 14th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John. But today by the grace of God, we are not going to leave that yet, because there are still some gleanings, some things that the Spirit of Christ wants us to draw from those two verses.

So we are going to go back there again and read from there today.

Can you read the 13th and the 14th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John?

13. Jesus answered her, everyone who drink the water will be thirsty again but whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again.

14. But the water that I give him will become in him a spring of water satisfying his thirst for God, welling up, continually flowing, bobbling within him to eternal life.

Thank you for that.

Now, see in the 13th verse of the 4th Chapter, Jesus did say if you drink of this water, you will thirst again but if you drink of the water I'm going to offer, then you will not thirst like you have thirsted if you drank from the other water.

Now, let's bring the point out some few things. Here the very first thing is, if you've been with us on our previous transmission, we have established by the Word of God that this water that Jesus was referring to could not have been the physical well of Jacob that the woman had with her.

The woman thought it was a discuss about Jacob's well that they were standing by. But we looked at some characteristics of that well, we looked at some properties of that well and we concluded by the Word of God that Jesus wasn't referring to that well.

So the question is when Jesus said if anybody drinks from this water, which water, which well was Christ referring to?

Now, we've been looking at that from last transmission. We need to identify what is the water or what is the well of life that mankind have been sucking from, drinking from, siphoning from?

Before Jesus came on the scene, before the gospel of the Lord Jesus came to offer life to humanity, before the good news about the Lord Jesus came on the scene, mankind has have way of satisfaction. That is why Jesus said if you drink from that water- it means the one that is on ground. Satisfaction, contentment, completeness, wholeness had always been on ground before Jesus showed up.

Jesus wasn't the very first that will ever say I can give you satisfaction. I can fill your thirst. He wasn't the first and that is why he admitted by his own statement that "I'm aware that mankind has always found satisfaction from one means or the other"

Jesus acknowledged that reality and that is why he said if you continue to drink from that water on ground.

Now, the question you are asking is what is that water? What is that way in which men have been going about life before Jesus brought the good news of the gospel of life in Christ Jesus? We are going to investigate that today by the Spirit of Christ.

I want to say this to you the ways of life are the way to go about life that Jesus referred the woman to by saying if you drink from that water, that way is still with us today. It has not gone away. It is something that is common to men. The Bible says there is no temptation that has overtaken you that is not common to men. It's something common. It's right in front of your nose.

Unless we can identify that thing, you will not be able to lay hold on the contrast that Jesus brings in the gospel. That is why Jesus was very specific. The word **this** in English language is a specific article. It's something you are pointing to. He said if you drink from this water, it means Jesus said can't you see it? It's something you can lay hold on. It is really palpable. You can feel it. The way of life that has come to contrast. It is really something you can see, if you drink from this water.

And you see, we have to identify this today. That is what we are actually trying to look at today.

You want to say one or two thing?

No, is good that this discussion is pointed

Yeah he says this water...

What is this water? Where is this? Let's point to this, let's lay hold of this by the Word of God.

Come with us today as we laid hold of this, the means of satisfaction, the means of completeness that men has devised even before the gospel of the Lord Jesus came on the scene.

Follow us quickly as we go to 2Corinthians 3 from the very first verse.

Don't forget we are trying to identify **this water**... That is what we are trying to do.

2Corinthians 3

1. Are we starting to commend ourselves again?

Now this is the reason about that verse. This is the Apostle Paul-the writer by the Holy Spirit of the book of Corinthians. Paul said again, it means Paul said this is the way we used to do things. It means we actually have to commend in a way, we have to prove ourselves. But in a way we have to be the one to announce ourselves, we are the one that are supposed to affirm ourselves. It means if we be somebody who is satisfy with life. If it is somebody contended with life, we need to do this ourselves.

Paul said do I want to start doing this again? This is what we used to do when we are the one that commend ourselves. And you see, this is what is very common in popular pop

culture, in the modern way of living life in which you do not put the responsibility or you don't give people that much power over your life to name you.

You know that is what people say today, don't allow somebody to shame you. Don't allow somebody to dictate to you who you are or what you are? Commend yourselves! Look at yourselves and bring out value from yourselves and affirm yourselves.

And you know there was a day I was looking something online and somebody read something which is very interesting on our page, he was trying to say I'm someone's else sister, someone's brother, someone's father, someone's mother... so what the person did was to cancel the father, cancel am somebody's brother, cancel am somebody's sister, cancel am somebody's mother and say I am someone, enough without all those things.

And you might want to say oh! what a great way! This is great. You might think is exciting... yeah they are coming out of the shadow of motherhood to say I am somebody without all those things.

Well, there is nothing new in that. It is not new in pop culture. Paul said himself. Paul said are we begin to commend ourselves again? It means people can drink the water of satisfaction of life. You can't actually present yourself and say I don't want you to label me. I can label myself. I'm sufficient within myself. It's nothing new under the sun.

But you know one thing that amazes me in this 2Corinthians Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul said we used to do that before, I don't want to do this again...

But you would had thought this was a great way where you don't allow anybody to name you. Well, the Apostle Paul said that is not even a way of life. That is not a pathway I want to follow. That is why he say are we starting to commend ourselves? I wouldn't do it... That is what the Apostle Paul was simply saying.

It might sounds liberating, it might sounds like it is a way of freeing yourself where you don't allow people to put that hold on you because you think I'm free to call myself what I chose. I'm free to follow my pathway in life. But the Apostle Paul said in the book of 2Corinthians Chapter 3, he said I don't want to do this again. And you want to know why? Just carry on

Go on please

But do we need like some false teachers, letters of recommendation to you or from you

Now, this is the opposite side of the stick. Can you see?

First was he said I wouldn't do it myself. I wouldn't commend myself. I am not going to go through the stressful thing about naming myself. And he said... blowing my own

trumpet.

But also I will still even not wait for others to do that on me. This is amazing...

It's amazing because this Apostle Paul by the revelation of the Holy Spirit is trying to contend with two different ideologies that is popular today in life. He is saying I'm not in that, I'm not in that. I wouldn't do it myself and I don't even care if other people have to name me.

And then this is the other side where people derive, they drink from the water. Jesus said this water, don't forget John Chapter 4 verse 13.

You know the reason why if you are asking the question today and saying why do we keep saying drinking this water? It is about this type of thing, is it connected? Yes, am glad you asked.

Think about it, according to science, they will tell you that the human body of male adult on average has over roughly about 60% of the body full of water. It means for a baby it is about 75% but for an adult it's roughly about 60% on average, the water in your body - that is the highest percentage of content. It is the highest that you have in your body compared to blood, compared to anything else. Water is the highest percentage component of your body. What does that mean?

That means we need water more than anything else. In fact, people that fast; that can go without food, they can say don't go for days and for weeks without food, but most of them cannot survive without water. The human body craves water more than anything else, because we are more of water. Water is satisfaction.

That is the reason why Jesus when it comes to satisfaction always try to use the allegory of thirst and water to tell you about satisfaction and completeness. That is why he uses that in the Word of God. In John Chapter 7, Jesus said on the last great day of the feast, he said if anybody is thirsty, let him come. He's not actually talking about H₂O, he's talking about does anybody want satisfaction? Does anybody wants meaning in life? Does anybody wants to know why they are here? Does anybody want to know how their life counts? It is about satisfaction. It is about completeness.

So it's just an allegory. It's just a way of presenting satisfaction and meaning. That is why he can used water and thirst in a way to present the reality.

So the Apostle Paul is saying to us here, there is a way I could have gone about finding out myself, about completing myself. I could have done that so but I choose not to do it. And you see the reason why it's not easy doing this yourself... it is not really easy because it's a very hard work.

You see the reason why when Jesus said all you that weary and heavy laden, come unto me and I will give you rest. You know when he says weary and heavy laden, he said it is stressful. It's a life of stressful where you have given yourself the responsibility to call out yourself, to name yourself. You know why? because you have to keep on the run, on the treadmill of making sure that you achieve something, so that you can feel good about yourself. You have to be on the treadmill towards making sure that you keep drawing into yourself. You have to keep hammering into yourself, keep affirming to yourself. That is why it is very fluid, when I say very fluid, it is very ficky.

That is why when somebody says anything to you or somebody says something, you feel very insecure because you have given yourself your own responsibility of naming yourself. That is why if you criticize people because of the kind of life you choose to live or if you say that is not right, people today find it very hard to take criticism easily.

In fact today, unlike before, unlike probably decades ago, if you say one thing today, somebody can commit suicide just because somebody said something wrong to them. Humanity has become so ficky. There is no base anymore.

I think because even the standards are changing over time, so people try to keep up with it, what society applauds today is not the same thing.

Exactly!

Once they applaud something, you have to just make sure you adapt your life so that you can feel among, you can feel great, is simply because you have given yourself that task. It is a never ending task. It makes sense where Apostle Paul said, I don't want to go that route. I don't want to compare myself again, it means if you change the goal post and have to adapt just to make sure I feel great, I feel good, I feel satisfied about myself.

And there are times it's very inconsistent. When I say inconsistent is, for example, you feel today that this is the way you think you should go to express yourself, and in the next one, two weeks or few months or few years or few hours, you actually feel completely opposite and feel oh! I think that is who I am. But the other time... some people today they say I feel like I am this person and then if you ask them next month, they say oh! they changed the whole outlook now, I think I'm like the other person. This goes all the way to people's relationship, orientation, mentality, sexuality, the whole humanity is confused because we think we can name ourselves. But we keep changing.

So if you keep changing, who really are you? That is why it's a very stressful life that the Apostle Paul said I'm not going to go that route. And then he then said, that if you think the other route is better which is the other way waiting...

There is an emphatic No here in parenthesis.

No! He said if you think am going to wait for other people to do that to me, this is what you obtain in traditional culture where it seems less stressful because you don't have to keep flowing with the tides of things unlike the first one. You don't have to keeping on with the Jones unlike the first one. You don't have to start naming and affirming yourself and trying to identify and say I am a great person and who I am? You don't have to keep doing that. All you have to do is sliding into your role within the community. Is that okay? Be a good wife. That is it!

Once you are good wife, just allow the community to say that is very great woman because she is always there for her children. Always she is very great and you feel good about yourself, waiting for others to put the title on you. It's less stressful because you are not the one doing the job, community is doing it for you or people sacrifice themselves as heroes in the community.

You see that is why people sacrifice their time, sacrifice their own energy, sacrifice their resources even their life in some case so that society can then say yes! that is a great hero. That is a great man. That is a mighty man. That man is a great father. Oh! That man is a great leader. He labored and everything for us. People do all these things to get the affirmation from the society. It's less stressful which is a good news. But the bad news is what about if the people conferring their identity on you become unreasonable?

or changing their mind, or the standard become unreasonable...

Imagine some children that are brought by their parents because some parents... as long as am fulfilling my parent expectation I feel great about myself and wait for them to give me that commendation. That is the only good thing. You might think is good, but the danger in that is what about if those parents have unusually high expectations and they have chosen to call that child a failure unless he meet that expectation?

Out of their selfishness...

So it's not even safe to live that kind of life. That is the type of traditional culture, the way people get satisfaction, the way people satisfy their thirsty.

People have been destroyed by it that way.

They've been destroyed. So the Apostle Paul said I cannot continue to commend myself again. I can't do this anymore. And he said am I then saying the reason why I will not commend myself again because I was waiting for others to commend me? He said No! I reject this and I reject that.

I refuse to drink. That is why Jesus said to that woman in John Chapter 4, he said if you drink from this water. This is the way people have been getting this satisfaction of life. So

Christ was referring to a “**this**”... That is what we are trying to lay hold on that today. So Paul said I’m not going to go through that. And I’m not going to go through that.

I wouldn’t do that.

So what did he says next?

2. You are our letter of recommendation written in our hearts, recognize and read by everyone. Ye show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablet or stone but on tablet of human heart. Such is the confidence, the steadfast reliance and absolute trust that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are sufficiently qualified in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency and qualifications come from God.

Can you see that?

So you know the Apostle Paul sounds to me like a researcher. He was proposing a thesis.

He said if I say to you that I refuse to drink from that water of commending myself and if I say to you that I refuse to drink from the other water where I wait for people to put it on me, and you are wondering, you should ask a question if you are great thinker.

Paul said there are already two ways to do these things. Paul said I propose a third way of where you can drink and be satisfied with life, where you can be complete and be contented with life.

So Paul proposed a third way. That is what he did. He rejected the popular two ways and he proposed a third way. That is why Jesus was saying to that woman if you drink from this water, so what Jesus did in the 13th verse of John 4 was to propose a third way as well because Jesus said the water I will give you..

So the Apostle Paul was really in a kind of mirroring John 4:13 to say I wouldn’t drink from that water, there is a third way. And that is the third way we’ve come to propose to you as well, that there is a way to get satisfied with life. And is not any of the way that are in popular pop culture.

Oh! before you go further, it’s good that people should know. Because in this world, people thought you only have a binary options- is either this or that. Even we have our language of communication conveyed in that way. People says you have a choice between the devil and the evil red sea or jumping from frying pan to fire. Sometimes they feel at home and some people come and say oh! I am from the East, they are running away from the East, from the mold and the problem and consequences of living under this kind of expectation and realistic expectation, selfish agenda. They had run to the

West where you can be free and you can name your terms of engagement with people, how you want to refer to me today, how you want to be today.

So people running from... just like the same binary options... either this or that, East or West, this and this... But is good to know that there is a third way here.

It doesn't have to be making a bad choice out of the worst one. You don't have to go for the bad or worst. There is a more excellent way which is the more excellent way. We have scriptures referring it that there is a more excellent way. And it's good for us to look deeply into what Apostle Paul is saying. Let's see the merit of this third way. There is a sense in this.

Why is it safest one? Because the thing about the name of the Lord, the scriptures says **the name of the Lord is a strong towel and the righteous run into it and he is safe.** And if the Apostle Paul was going to run into this third way, he said I reject the first one, I reject the second one. In 2Cor 3:1-2 he rejected both ways and said I'm going for the third one, we have to compare and contrast. And also this bore down to John 4:13, 14 where Jesus rejected that water and he told that woman if you continue to drink from that water, you are going to have problems.

And you know is like a measure of intelligence here and depth, and you can see Apostle Paul not going to settle for the surface level of choice here. He goes further. And that is why we can watch this exposition is all about, and that is what Expose 247 is all about. So we don't need to settle for what is around and what has been available today. We need to have the appetite for more to see that oh! is there a better way than all these? And more excellent way.

And then he takes something of depth, it takes some scholastic inquiring into this, to know what is this? Can it be better than what we have on ground even in our religious or spiritual disposition?

It is no longer binary options any more about how we relate, there is an excellent way to know because we see people, they come in and even minister of God, they come in and they interpret things based on their own culture and based on their supposed culture (popular culture) and so because they have seen the demerit of what they are, the mold of what is in their environment, so they begin to elevate the other side. And they began to balance it and try to bring the goods and balance thing and feel like yes, we can learn from this. Though we are from the East, we can learn from the West. Though we are from the west, we can learn from the east. It doesn't have to be this way.

It doesn't have to be West or East. There is a third option. That is what Jesus presented in John 4:13. That is what he presented to the woman. He said woman! you don't have to continue with that water, I have a different one here. And then you see, what Jesus did is

what we are going to do today as we... I wouldn't say we are presenting the gospel as it were, if you are born again we are drawing out the implication of the gospel for you if you are in Christ Jesus.

What the Apostle Paul is simply doing is what Christ did in John 4:13. Jesus told the woman the problem she will have if she continue with that water.

And then that brings the opening verse that I quoted today and John Chapter 10 verse 10 where Jesus was contrasting. It's like a third options too, he said the thief comes to steal, and then you can have life and then you can have life in abundance. So it is a third options too. Do you just want to manage with life? Do you want to have life or you want life in abundance? So that is it.

Jesus was actually pointing to that woman, well, you can still drink from this, is like you can have life, you can make do, and some will be making do, and some have been making do with it and some will make do, as we are even talking today.

The problem is you will thirst again.

You are going to go through a cycle of life that you will not find palatable. It is stressful, it is hard. It is labour. It doesn't allow you to enjoy the benefits of the cross.

So Christ is calling us to come to the life in abundance, he is calling us to this excellent way, the third option as we look into the scriptures, we begin to come with glass and appetite to look for where is the third option now? That is how we should approach it.

Thank you for that.

Now, you see before we begin to do what Christ did in his presentation in John 4:13 where he showed the woman that if you want to carry on that way, something will go wrong very soon. You will get into an endless cycle of thirst, an endless cycle of frustration very soon if you continue that way.

Before we begin to draw on that, let us also see another side of this thinking of...

Yeah, we are going to come that, but we just want to expatiate more. Just hold on to that...

Viewers listen to us, we are going to come down to that verse 4 & 5 very soon.

Before we do that, let's make more case for this water that Jesus was pointing that woman to in John 4:13.

Can you read quickly from 1Corinthians Chapter 4 from verse 1?

Now look at this, this is another I call it the second testimony to corroborate John 4:13

2Corinthians 4

1. So then let us whole minister be regarded as servant of Christ and stewards, trustees, administrators of the mystery of God, that he chooses to reveal. In this case moreover, it is required as essential and demanded of stewards that one be found faithful and trustworthy.

But as for me personally,

Now watch that!

He said it is expected that if you are a stewards of the mystery of God, if you are a custodian of God's mystery, of the mystery of Christ that you be committed and be faithful to that which you have received. Now that means you don't be lazy, you labour, you exercise all of the grace of God in your life. He said it's good to do all that. But he said as for me,

You know when he say but as for me, the reason why he said that, this would actually resounding one of our earlier title when we began the Bucket Ministry Series where we began to talk about the fact that work is good, when you are committed to the task given to you. It is a very great thing. There is a but to it.

Now watch it!

As for me personally, it matters very little to me

That what?

that I may be judge by you,

Okay!

This is amazing that as I go about being committed to the vision that God has placed in my hands, as a stewards. When we say stewards, you could be a custodian of God's grace either within the four wall of the church or outside... don't forget that we have said before that ministers of God are not just people on pupil because the scriptures did say that even the person in government, he said he is a minister of God to exercise God's justice against the evil doers. Can you see that?

So he said whatever minister that you are in this world, whatever grace that God has put in you to use, resources, capacity, ability that you have in this world, blessed be God. He said as for me, am not going to depend on measure, the completeness of my life, am not going to be happy or contented that I have arrived.

Go on please

As for me personally it matters very little to me, I may be judged by you or any men court on this point

Now, which way of life is that?

Paul said, he is making a case for, some people are like this. Well, it matters a lot to them-what the courts of public opinion says about them. That is why he used the word court. What other people says, it matters a lot to them.

Paul said it doesn't matters to me what they say. It doesn't count! That would then sounds consistent with 2Corinthians 3:1-3 where he did say that am not waiting for people to be the one to commend, to affirm me, he said I am not waiting on that, so I reject the traditional of culture.

Now watch this!

In fact, I do not even judge myself.

Because I rejected traditional culture, you might think am on the side of modern culture – to judge myself and be the judge of my life.

He said because I said am not going to be living my life through the lens of what people want... you know you would have thought oh! maybe I'm pro-modern or I'm pro – individualism. I'm neither pro-modern, am not even pro-self. And people get confused- you are not pro-self and you are not pro-modern, pro what are you?

Now, this is a second testimony of the way this great man of God- Apostle Paul lived his life so much that the effect of his ministry, the effect of the life he lived is still reverberating up till today.