

Jesus: A Fountain of Living Water

Day 9 of our [40 Days of Mercy Fast](#)

'O inexhaustible spring of Divine Mercy, pour Yourself out upon us! Your goodness knows no limits. Confirm, O Lord, the power of Your mercy over the abyss of our misery, for You have no limits to Your mercies.' (819)

The Old Testament streams of mercy converge in the New Testament and well up into a fountain of 'living water'. Jesus is that fountain. From Him flow rivers of Life that make the unclean pure, the weak strong, and the broken whole. Jesus embodies Mercy. He releases Mercy to sinners, manifesting the truth that 'those who were far away from God have been brought near' to Him (Eph. 2: 13).

One barrier for sinners in relation to a Holy God is shame. The emotion of separation and inferiority, shame reminds the soul of its sinful distance from Him. It functions like a 'shame-coat', repelling even good expressions of 'living water.'

Jesus offers this 'liquid love' for the first time early in John's Gospel (Chapter 4). He encounters a woman steeped in shame. Her shame was two-fold. First, she had experienced much 'social shame' due to her ethnicity. Samaritans were scorned in that day, especially by Jews. Originally an ethnic hybrid of Jewish and Canaanite blood, Samaritans reminded Jews of the shame they incurred by intermingling with a forbidden culture.

Jews looked down on Samaritans with squinting eyes. Such social shame is evil--it has its source in the fallen traditions of men, not in God's heart. But it can be just as powerful. That woman would have thought Jesus had nothing but scorn for her, just as a man or woman struggling with same-sex attraction might fear the bullying of an angry peer or preacher.

But the Samaritan had a second type of shame as well, the shame we feel when we go outside of

God's will. This woman had many sexual partners in her past and one in her present. She knew that Jesus was a holy man; she knew also that she was not holy, sexually-speaking. Such shame may have tempted her or us to turn away from holy ones for fear of incurring rejection, condemnation, etc.

In John 4, Jesus turns to the Samaritan woman, and to us, in our shameful state. Each of us is a mixture of both good and bad shame. We have sinned, and we have been sinned against by those motivated by ungodly traditions of shame.

Jesus makes it clear in John 4 that the cure for both types of shame is in His 'living water.' Only Mercy can dissolve the 'shame coat' that tempts us to resist Love. He says to us all: 'The water I give you will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' (Jn. 4: 13)

Here Jesus is prophesying two future events: the flood of Blood and Water released at Calvary, and the Holy Spirit released at His Resurrection. (Jn. 19: 34; Jn. 20: 22)

He releases to this woman a foretaste of this flood of Mercy. What matters here is how tender His Mercy is toward this shameful one, and how powerful is His Mercy to dissolve that shame and enter into her depths. Shame is no match for Almighty Mercy!

He is not content with us just knowing cerebrally about His Love; He wants us to partake of Mercy at the most deeply personal level until it springs up within us a Fountain of Life.

'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, streams of living water will flow from within him.' (Jn.7: 37, 8)

'Jesus, remind us of how You stoop down to sinners in order to raise us up. Remove the shame that bars us from Your Presence. We pray for all who still hide from You in shame; let 'Living Water' flow to them. Use Your servants to make known to the shamed how You draw near to them in order to set them free.'