

The Depth of God

Jacob's well is deep. A great trait for a well in the dry climate of the Holy Land. Depth means a better chance of water for every season. Depth means independence from other sources of water. Depth means life.

The woman of Sychar knows that very well. I imagine Jacob's well is a matter of great pride for the community. The well makes the town livable; the fact that it was dug by Jacob makes the town holy. She wonders whether Jesus realizes how important the well is. He does. He knows depth. He is deep. He is depth itself. God's thoughts are not only much higher than human thoughts, they are much deeper. God is the creator of all things, from the depths of the earth to the infinity of the sky. He is telling us: "my well is deeper than you could ever imagine. It has to be, to reach a water that is unlike any water you know. My water comes from a depth you can never know, only experience. A sip of this water will change you forever. A sip of this water is all you need to quench all your thirst, present and future. And don't think you can build a rope long enough to get that water on your own. If you want that water, ask me. I can give you that water; nobody else can. I am the well, the bucket, and the water."

Interestingly enough, a few verses later the Lord makes a similar statement about food: "I have food to eat of which you do not know." It's as if he is telling us that we are in unfamiliar territory, trying to understand something that cannot be understood, something that breaks all the rules. The food and water He gives us are not of this world. Their nature is not mundane. Their effects are not predictable. The food and water he gives us are going to be the only viable form of sustenance when "the hour comes."

How do we get that sustenance? How do we prepare ourselves for the hour that is coming? How do you, my brothers and sisters, and I ask him? Luckily for us, no words are necessary; the Great Depth can reach into the depth of our beings and read the book of our humanity. All we have to do is join him at the table. Take a seat with those who love Him and have a wonderful meal.