



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
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Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

~ ECHOES FROM THE UNDER SHEPHERD ~

Annual Women's Day

THE SUPERNATURAL ABILITY OF JESUS CHRIST: THE LIVING WATER

Jesus answered and said to her, "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

The Old Testament is the background for the term, "Living Water." In Jeremiah 2:13, Yahweh denounces the disobedience of the Jews for rejecting Him, the "fountain of living water." The Old Testament prophets looked forward to a time when "living waters shall flow from Jerusalem" (Ezekiel 47:9; Zechariah 14:8). The Old Testament metaphor spoke of the knowledge of God and His grace which provides cleansing, spiritual life, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. John records in John 4:14; 6:35; 7:37-39, these themes to Jesus Christ as the living water which is symbolic of eternal life mediated by the Holy Spirit from Him. Jesus used the woman's need for physical water to sustain life in this very dry region of Palestine to serve as an essential lesson for her need for personal spiritual transformation.

The late Oswald Chambers made the following relevant comments on John 4 and Jesus Christ witnessing to the woman at the well, which I believe, are worth serious reflection:

The well is deep "—and even a great deal deeper than the Samaritan woman knew!" (John 4:11). Think of the depths of human nature and human life; think of the depth of the "wells" in you. **Have you been limiting, or impoverishing the ministry of Jesus to the point that He is unable to work in your life?** Suppose that you have a deep "well" of hurt and trouble inside your heart and Jesus comes and says to you, "Let not your heart be troubled. . ." (John 14:1). Would your response be to shrug your shoulders and say, "But Lord, the well is too deep, and even You can't draw up quietness and comfort out of it." Actually, that is correct. **Jesus doesn't bring anything up from the wells of human nature—He brings them down from above.** We limit the Holy One of Israel by remembering only what we have allowed Him to do for us in the past, and also by saying, "Of course, I cannot expect God to do this particular thing." The thing that approaches the very limits of His power is the very thing we as disciples of Jesus ought to believe He will do. **We impoverish and weaken His ministry in us the moment we forget He is almighty.** The impoverishment is in us, not in Him. We will come to Jesus for Him to be our comforter or our sympathizer, but we refrain from approaching Him as our Almighty God.

The reason some of us are such poor examples of Christianity is that we have failed to recognize that Christ is almighty. We have Christian attributes and experiences, but there is no abandonment or surrender to Jesus Christ. When we get into difficult circumstances, we

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impoverish His ministry by saying, “Of course, He can’t do anything about this.” **We struggle to reach the bottom of our own well, trying to get water for ourselves.** Beware of sitting back, and saying, “It can’t be done.” You will know it can be done if you will look to Jesus. **The well of your incompleteness runs deep, but make the effort to look away from yourself to look toward Him.**

Finally, to Sister Toni Marshall, 2017 General Chair and Sister Denise Harris, 2017 General Co-Chair and all the beautiful women of Christ at Union Baptist Church, I say to you on this your Women’s Laity Day, “WELL DONE!” To our guests and to every member of Union, may God’s blessings be with you always for His great purpose of kingdom building on earth is my prayer!

In His Service I Remain,

Pastor Yates

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