

## Got Water?

*And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped up.... (Genesis 26:18).*

Isaac had moved his family to the valley of Gerar but had a major problem: no water! Life can't be lived without water. What should he do? He could have used the "trial-and-error method" of searching for water, randomly digging here and there hoping for success. Or he could have called the "experts" with their state-of-the-art techniques. No. When confronted with an issue as vital as water, Isaac chose a much wiser and more certain path. He went back to the wells that his father Abraham had dug. Old Abe knew where to find water and in his day he drank deeply... and prospered.

Isaac found his father's wells but discovered that the Philistines had filled them up with dirt and rubbish. The water was still there, as it always was. But the way was blocked. Rather than give up in despair and move somewhere else, Isaac simply redug the old wells. Voila! Water.

There is only one explanation for the spiritual malaise that characterizes so many of us today: someone has plugged up the old wells! The water is still there where it has always been, but the channel is blocked by dirt and debris. If we are going to quench the thirst deep in our souls, we are first going to need to clear out the rubbish. What rubbish?

- **Unbelief.** Nothing makes the soul thirstier than an inability (refusal?) to trust God and the promises he gives us in his Word. The result is spiritual mediocrity and superficiality.
- **Unconfessed sin.** When I try to live for Christ and at the same time hold on to secret sins, refusing to bring them into the light, resisting his lordship, I cut myself off from the water of life and my soul begins to languish.
- **Lack of commitment.** Pretending that I can follow Christ and be partially committed is equivalent to throwing rubbish in the well. No wonder I'm so thirsty!
- **Dead orthodoxy.** Some of us can't find water because of our spiritual pride. We think that our doctrines and practices make us somehow superior to other people. Consequently, we go through the motions of religion... but without the power.
- **Lack of love.** It's all about me. When I find myself motivated by duty, religion, guilt or self-interest, I soon begin to grow faint from lack of water. Love for God and love for others is the only motivation that unplugs the channel and lets the living water flow.

Dear friend, are you thirsty? I hope so! You have come to the right place. Jesus Christ offers living water to everyone who is thirsty (John 4:13-14; 7:37-39). It's abundant and it's free! However, you may need to clear away some rubbish before you can drink!