



Springs in the Valley

Dr Cecil Stewart OBE



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Have you ever felt like you were in a valley of anxiety, disappointment and fear?

When I was in my lowest valley with Tuberculosis, severe anxiety and uncertainty it seemed like all hope of ever rising again was gone.

However even though it was a long walk through the valley I can testify to the fact that the Lord brought me out stronger than ever and along with my wife Evelyn we've had the privilege of ministering to multitudes in many nations, resulting in a mighty harvest of souls to God be the glory.



This of course happened through working together with dedicated teams and churches of different denominations and cultures.

Genesis 26:19 reveals how Isaac had his servants dig again in the valley and found a well of running water there.

The Philistines had stopped up the wells which Abraham his father had dug but the springs were still there.

Satan seeks to stop the springs of Salvation and new life reaching every generation but today millions of young people are discovering the springs in the valley and are rising up full of the Holy Spirit to reach this

generation with the transforming power of God's love and truth.

Isaiah 44:3 says 'I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring.'

The big question is 'How strong is our thirst?'

Isaiah 35:7 'The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.'

In **John 4:14** Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Here we see a woman who was thirsty, hurting and broken, she made a lot of wrong choices in her search for satisfaction and purpose but Jesus revealed to her how she can have springs of living water within her that will bring long-term satisfaction and purpose.

Then she responded by saying ‘Give me this water’ soon she was witnessing to others in the city saying ‘Come see a man who told me all things that I ever did, is this not the Christ?’

Then those in the city went out and came to Jesus.

This is what happens when people see Jesus as he really is. Not as one who condemns but as a saviour who gave his life on the cross for them.

Notice carefully in **John 4:10** Jesus answered and said to her if you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you give me a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

So many people don't know who Jesus really is and the gift of eternal life God has provided for them.

Jesus didn't focus on her sins and the fact that she had five husbands and was now living with another man, who wasn't her husband. Nor did he focus on the fact that she was a Samaritan and the Jews had no dealing with Samaritans. Instead Jesus crossed the culture divide and reached her in spite of all her many faults. He went outside his comfort zone and she came to know Jesus as saviour and then became a mighty ambassador to bring so many to the Lord. There are many valuable insights in this story that can propel us forward to a more fruitful future for the Kingdom of God.

The only time we should look down on anyone is when we are bending down to lift them up.

1. Jesus developed a friendship before witnessing

Jesus was weary from the journey so he sat by Jacob's well and the Samaritan woman came to draw water, He asked her for a drink obviously she was surprised that he being a Jew would speak to her but Jesus had a far greater purpose in mind than getting a drink for himself, he wanted her to have a drink of the living water that would change her life forever and that's why he began the conversation with her.

We can see here how opportunities are there as we journey through life daily.

Even when we are weary we can still witness on a one to one basis as the Holy Spirit leads. The most wonderful thing we can do with our time is to share our testimony with others.

2 Corinthians 5:15 reminds us that Jesus died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but unto him who died for them and rose again.

Our testimony and the way we live can cause those without Christ to come and find His great Salvation also those who may be discouraged can be stirred to rise up and use their God given authority against the enemy.

2. Jesus talked on a topic that interested her

Water and thirst was her greatest need at that time.

We all need to connect with people at a level they can understand and that relates to them, then they will listen. Jesus knew this woman had been used and abused, he knew about her broken relationships and disappointments, that's why he went out of his way to be there.

Hebrews 4:16 'Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.'

3. He crossed the culture divide

Jesus could have mentioned many reasons not to go through Samara, he had nothing in common with them, in fact the Jews despised Samaritans and considered them deplorable sinners.

Her bad reputation could have been another reason why he should not speak to her but Jesus was living to honour the father, so none of these things stopped him.

John 6:38, 'For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.'

We need to be determined not to be hindered by how things look in the natural but walk by faith not by feelings and continue to reach out to those whose lives are out of order. Recognising that we also may have areas of our lives that are out of order.

Matthew 7:3, 'And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?'

It's a tragedy that so many believers are put off so easily from reaching out to those of different cultures and those who have gone astray through offence and discouragement.

Jesus said in **Luke 15:4** “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

We all can think of someone who has gone astray, through deception and discouragement of the devil. Then we can reach out to them with the love of God to bring them back. We can do this through praying regularly for them and endeavouring to restore them into fellowship with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:18, ‘Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.’

4. Example and opportunity

We have an excellent example and a great opportunity in these challenging days to follow in the steps of Jesus and give the thirsty world around us a drink of the living water.

Psalms 104:10, 'He sends the springs into the valleys; They flow among the hills.'

This is the answer, to strife, anxiety misunderstandings and broken relationships. So let each one of us dig again the wells of believing prayer right in the valley.

Jude 1:20-21, 'But ye, beloved, building up

yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.'


It's time to stop describing
our problems and start
declaring God's plan.

Jesus said in **John 7:37-39**, 'On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But

this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.'

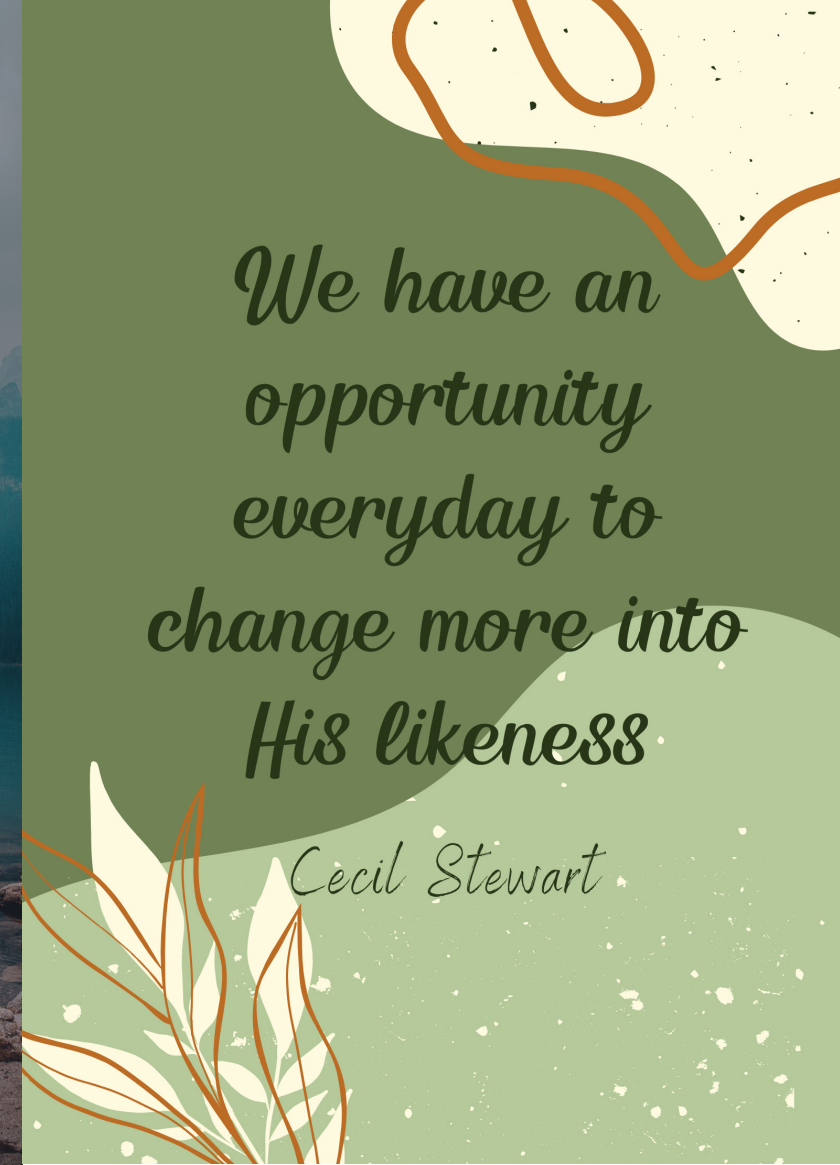
Isaiah 12:3-6, 'Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

We can all show an attitude of gratitude and manifest joy when we remember all that Jesus has done for us.



The best thing we can
do is find out what
God is doing and work
with him

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*We have an
opportunity
everyday to
change more into
His likeness*

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