

Jesus, The Life You Have Been Searching For

John 10:9-11 – NIV - ⁹ I am the gate; **(the Door)** whoever enters through me will be saved. **(Kept Safe)** They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **(More abundantly)** ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down **(gives)** his life for the sheep.

AMP - 10 *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).*

Life has a myriad of definitions. Depending on who you talk to and where you are – you will get varied understandings of **what a good life is.**

- If you talk to someone here in America they would say, “Oh, if I could just live in the Caribbean that would be the life.”
- Then you ask a native of the Caribbean and they would say, “Oh, to live in America!”
- The poor cry “Oh, to be rich!”
- While the rich often say, “Oh, to have a simple and healthy life!”
- The childless woman would say, “To have children, that would be the life!”
- While the mother with children says, “Where did all these kids come from and why do they keep calling me mom?”

Life: The condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter, including the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and continual change preceding death.

- To a clinician, life is simply something that is breathing.
- To a human, life is simply day by day then death.
- To Jesus, life is His breath breathed into humanity not only at your physical birth but also for your spirit being!

Jesus is not interested in you simply living or existing but living in abundance!

How do you live with abundant life?

- It's when you have the weights of this life, the **sin you were born with**,
- but not designed for, removed from your life.

Life more abundantly is when you live in the purpose you were created for.

That purpose of God that is taylor made to fit your life!

- Life is more than work, sleep, eat, and procreation!
- Life is more than punching a clock and time ticking till the ticker stops ticking.
- Life is about purpose!

A quote from Robert J. Shores that goes like this:

“Our hope for eternal life in the hereafter does not spring from a longing for a spiritual existence but grows out of our love for life upon this earth, which we have tried and found good.”

This hit me in a powerful way!

If you hate this life, then why would you pursue eternal life?

The root word abundant is repeated over 70 times in the scripture.

God wanted His people in the OT to live in a land flowing with milk and honey.

In the NT He wanted us not only to have life, but that more abundantly!

Matthew 8:1-3 - Jesus Cleanses a Leper

8 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, you can make me clean.”

³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Leprosy in the Bible is much like cancer today.

- Leprosy in the Bible was said to have been caused by sin in the individual's life or the life of a relative.
- Leprosy was the most dreaded disease of the Old and New Testament.

I want to show you why leprosy was so dreaded and why its symptoms were used to compare sin in a person's life.

- Leprosy affects the skin and nerves. Leprosy causes blindness, dead limbs, crippling, & amputation.
- The greatest symptoms are loneliness and shamefulness.
- For a surgeon, the most common symptom patients present to them is pain.

Pain causes a great deal of discomfort, suffering and despair.

- Most people will do anything for a pain free life...
- Pain however is a necessary part of life

Pain in the physical and spiritual is very important

- And something we cannot live without
- Hence the importance and relevance of pain.

Pain is perceived as a problem and not as the protective symptom that it is.

- Pain causes a protective response.
- Other parts of the body rush to favor and take on the burdens of the hurting part.
- If this does not occur and pain is ignored, or if the pain is absent, destruction results and a part of the body may be lost.

In the spiritual sense of leprosy when a saint of God is affected by sin,

- We as the body of Christ must rush to the hurting part of the body
- Begin to hold their hand in prayer and fasting for restoration.

Sin like leprosy, starts out small and we may try and wrap the wound or run to the altar and repent.

Time may go by, and everything seems to be ok but all the time the **leprosy continues to spread**.

- **We are standing on our own** now **without God** and **don't even notice it**.
- Our legs have lost all feeling and we don't even realize that **we are damaging ourselves**.

Then **our eyesight** becomes dim

- We can't see our way anymore
- We begin to bump into harmful things that cut us, and **we can't even feel it**.
- **God comes by and try's to touch us....**
- But our feeling is gone and we can no longer feel His hand of love and mercy.

Sin begins to separate the infected and they become ostracized.

- Because the diseased feels **ashamed and hopeless**.
- You cut yourself off from the clean and **join the unclean**.

In our text today we find that this leper is the first man to call Jesus, Lord.

- He was not a prophet, not a Pharisee, not even a disciple, but a leper.

The song says, ***"He touched me, and made me whole. And Oh, the joy that floods my soul."***

This is an interesting story Matthew gives.

- Vs. 1 talks about the multitude but **out of the multitude** comes one man.
- Sometimes a crowd hinders us.

The woman with the issue of blood.

- Everyone else was standing and looking around
- but when she touched Him, a miracle came forth.

Here is my message today. The lepers could never dwell with the clean again.

They ate, slept, worked, and married their own kind and like some lost tribe they lived together.

The Bible says the leper worshipped Him.

- **Not** asked for **forgiveness**,
- not asked for a **healing**,
- not for **financial gain**
- But *he came forward* and said -

Jesus, I know who you are and he worshipped Him.

Some ask why we raise our hands and why we worship the way we do.

We have come to worship, kneel, and fall on our face *and declare that He is God.*

The same God who said don't touch a leper or you will die,

- **The same God** that said *leprosy is a type of sin*, stay away,
- **Is the same God** that stepped out of Heaven in the form of Jesus Christ
- **And said I am going to bring you something new *called love and mercy***
- and **I am going to *personally touch you***.

I am preaching on - Jesus, the life you have been searching for.

I want to draw your attention to one final story in John 4.

John 4:9-19 - ⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

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.”

¹¹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

Jesus leaves Judaea and heads towards Galilee but the Bible says *He had to go to Samaria.*

- Many times, when a **person makes up in their mind:**
- **“I need a change; I can’t live like this anymore”.**
- God has a way of *finding you.*
- Maybe ***your well experience*** was a *knock on your door* with an invite to this church, or *maybe a coworker,* or you *drove by the church* or *stumbled onto the website...*

It was another horrible typical day for this woman who no doubt as a child dreamed of becoming a princess.

Maybe her dream was simpler.

A nice house with a porch and white picket fence with children playing in the yard and a husband who would love her, provide for her, and protect her.

Somewhere along the way the childhood dreams begin to fade and slip away.

- **Maybe it started with** a neighbor or family member who *molested her.*
- Maybe her father *abandoned his family*
- And she had *no father image* in her life.

Whatever event happened in her life, it caused her to abandon her dreams and sell her body not to the highest bidder but rather to any bidder she could find.

- There were several reasons why this woman would go to the well at noon.
- **She was a shameful woman and an outcast in her town.**
- Nobody wanted to be seen talking to her.

I see her darting around corners and in alleys on her way to the well.

- *She is shamed* and at a loss of how to get out of the web she is in.
- **Her life is miserable**, she wonders if it would be better to just end her life.
- The pills, drugs, and the alcohol **only numb her for a short time.**

She sees a man at the well, oh great I can't stand the sight of men and now I have to draw water with him here.

- **I wonder if he knows who I am.**
- **I wonder if he is going to proposition me like all the rest.**

But before she can tell him what she thinks he asked her for a drink of water.

CLOSE: You know what I like about God?

He is a God who says if you just worship me, I will touch you.

- ***When I touch you I will put back all the broken pieces of* your marriage, home, your loneliness, hopelessness, and un-happiness.**

I will give you life more abundantly!

- There's no telling how many times **that woman went to that well alone.**

All she had was her - shame, fear, and loneliness. Jesus knew what she needed!

He knew He had what she had been looking for.

- *And he offered her the same thing* **He is offering you today.**
- **A life with Him. A relationship with Him.**
- **His love instead of all the problems your life has burdened you with.**
- **He is just waiting to touch someone today.**

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