

Rejuvenate! Renew! Rejoice!

By Susan Brandt

John 4:1-26

“What are your plans for the summer?”

If you haven't asked this question yourself, someone has most likely asked you...right?

After all, summer is that wonderful time for rest and relaxation! It's a time to take a break to bask in the sun, play, and feast on our gardens' bounty. It's a time for vacation, picnics, ballgames, and celebrations. Summer gives us time to be with friends and family to enjoy, grow, learn, and make memories. The fact is...Summer *rejuvenates* us!

I am an educator who enjoys her summer time “reboot”. I use these couple months to catch my breath, reevaluate what I did well last school year, and what I need to do better. Summer is part of my ministry cycle which strengthens and nourishes me to do His work with my next crop of little ones. In a nutshell, summer *renews* me!

But “renewal” isn't just for mental health or professional growth. It is an important part of spiritual growth as well. In John chapter 4, we see Jesus do what he does best...the unexpected! Just read and see how much Jesus packs into this life lesson!

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink? Jesus answered 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.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

We see Jesus break taboo and speak to a Samaritan woman. Without judgement, He acknowledges her past and current sinful life. He offers her a “living water” which will forever quench her thirsty soul. Finally, he reveals Himself to her as the long-awaited Christ. Jesus has a conversation with this Samaritan woman that not only rejuvenates and renews her...it transforms her!

Just like this outcast woman, we too have felt the sting of judgement and failure, which makes us recognize a deep need of renewal. Jesus knew this women's every sin, fear, and weakness; and he

knows ours too. Yet, in the midst of it, He reaches out his hand and calls, "Come and drink from me, "the Living Water"- and you will never be thirsty again."

What a gift! Our loving God knows exactly what we need and offers it freely. He understands how hard the toil can be. After all, he endured the cross to quench our thirsty souls and renew our spirits. Our Father sent the "Living Water" to rescue us from sin, death and the devil, so we can be renewed through the Spirit to be... *"His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which He already has prepared for us to do."* Eph.2:10

Isn't it amazing? Our Father freely offers the remedy for exactly what we need. Through Christ the "Living Water", we are **rejuvenated** from our weakness, **renewed** to do His work, and respond by exuberantly **rejoicing** in His goodness!