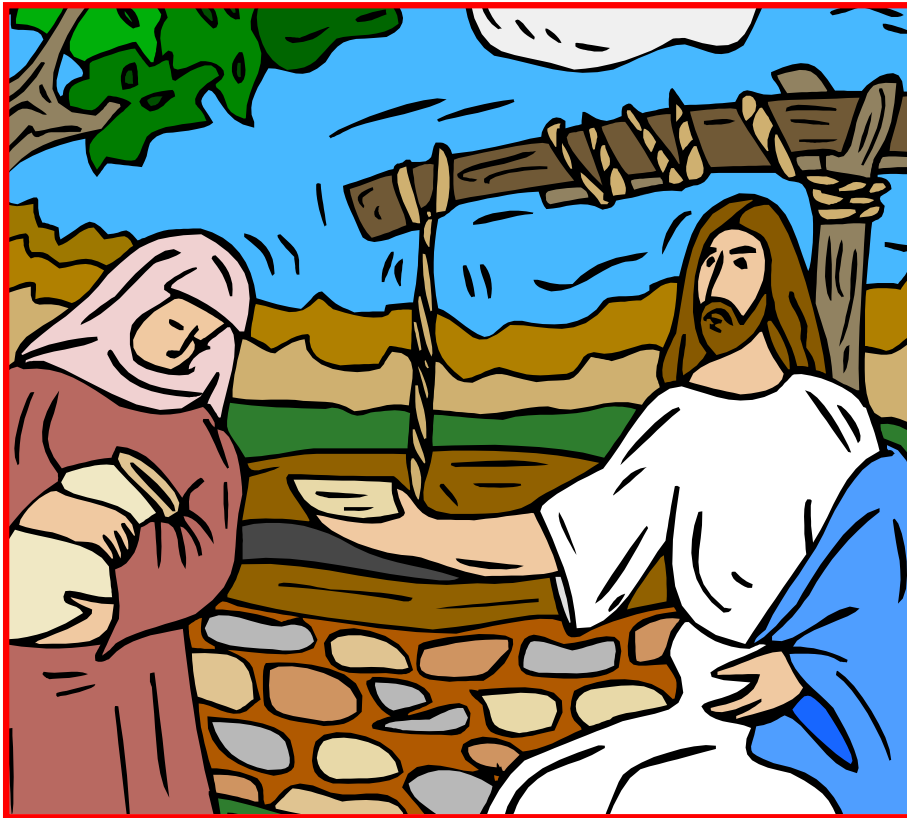


Lesson 34

Pictures of Jesus

The Living Water



Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about living water. Water is extremely important for life on earth and the water of baptism is extremely important for eternal life. Jesus is the living water that saves us forever.

John 4:10 | “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 4:13-14 | “Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Matthew 5:6 | “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.”

Let us start with the last Bible passage first. It will help explain the first two passages.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled," He is talking about people who want to do what is right according to God but they know that they fail to reach this goal because of sin. They want to please God and their desire to do this is like being hungry and thirsty for the blessing of God. Because of sin, they would go away hungry and thirsty if not for what Jesus did for us. Jesus earned God's righteousness for us and gives it as a gift to us. Jesus fills the hungry and thirsty soul with righteousness and salvation.

In the first two Bible passages, Jesus uses a common desire for people who live in the desert to teach a lesson. Water is the most important need for desert people. You can go without food for many days but in the desert you cannot go without water for more than a short time. In the desert you are always thirsty for water.

The living water that Jesus talks about is Himself. For those who believe in Jesus as their Savior, Jesus will fill their souls with faith and

joy. This faith and joy will overflow the believer's heart like a fountain because of the gift of God, which is the forgiveness of our sins.

Does this mean that we are always happy and never sad? The answer is no. There are times when we are sad or afraid or sick. What Jesus gives us is the joy of knowing that because He died on the cross to earn our salvation, we have peace with God and will live in heaven for all time. We may have bad times in this life but we know that this will end and we will be with Jesus forever one day in heaven where there is no sadness or fear or sickness.

Jesus lives forever and He fills us like living water that never runs out. We believe that Jesus saved us from our sins and it is this faith that gives us joy.

PRAYER TIME

We thank you Jesus for the gift of salvation. You fill us with faith and joy that is stronger than sadness or fear or sickness. One day our faith will bring us to heaven to live with You forever. Amen