

## FILL MY BUCKET

(John 4:5-42)

Intro: For Christmas Pam gave me this book.

-The Five Love Languages.

#By Gary Chapman.

-We've been reading it together.

Thesis of the book.

-There are five languages of love.

#Words of Affirmation

#Quality Time.

#Receiving Gifts.

#Acts of Service.

#Physical Touch.

-We each have a primary love language.

#It's not that one is right.

\*Or better than another.

+But each of us has a preference.

#If our spouse is speaking our love language.

\*Our love bucket is going to be full.

#If our spouse is not speaking our love language.

\*Our love bucket is not going to be full.

#If Pam likes to give me gifts.

\*Not a bad thing.

\*But if receiving gifts is not my primary love language.

+My love bucket is not going to get filled up.

#If my primary love language is physical touch.

\*And Pam is very affectionate.

+My love bucket is going to get filled up.

#There is an assessment tool in the back of the book.

\*To help us identify our primary love language.

-Relationships.

#Get into trouble.

#Run dry.

\*If we are not speaking the right love language.

\*If we are not filling our mate's love bucket.

+We may think we are:

=Doing loving things.

=Saying loving things.

+But if we are not speaking the right language.

=Our love buckets can run dry.

## I. In Our Gospel Lesson.

### A. Woman At The Well Had An Empty Bucket.

1. Fetching water was usually women's work.
  - a. When Jesus' disciples want to know:
    - Where they should prepare the Passover meal.
    - #For Jesus.
    - #For the other disciples.
  - b. Jesus.
    - Sends them into the city (Jerusalem).
    - Tells them to look for a man carrying a jar of water.
    - #Follow that man home.
    - \*That's where they are to prepare the meal.
    - +Mark 14:12-16.
    - +Luke 22:7-13
    - #Man carrying water would have stood out in a crowd.
    - \*Fetching water was usually women's work.
2. Fetching water was usually done:
  - a. Early in the morning.
  - b. In the evening.
    - Genesis 24:11.
  - c. Not in the heat of the day.
3. Samaritan woman was there at the well at noon.
  - a. In the middle of the day.
  - b. All by herself.
    - Why?
      - #Was she a "slug-a-bed?"
      - \*Who couldn't get her buns out of bed.
      - +Early in the morning.
      - #Did she choose to go at noon?
      - \*When no one else was likely to be around.
    - She is disconnected from the other women.
    - #Not a good sign for someone with:
      - \*"Empty bucket syndrome."
4. This woman had other problems.
  - a. She had had five husbands.
    - We don't know.
    - #If there had been infidelity.
    - #If there had been divorce.
    - #If they had died.
    - #If there had been a combination of all of these things.
    - But her love bucket was no doubt empty.

- b. Man she was living with was not her husband.
  - Shacking up.
    - #It used to be called.
  - U.S. Census Bureau.
    - #Came up with a new term.
      - \*In 1980.
    - #POSSLQ.
      - \*Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters.
  - She was looking for someone to fill her love bucket.

B. Jesus Filled Her Bucket.

- 1. Jesus was on his way.
  - a. From Judea.
  - b. To Galilee.
- 2. Samaria was in between.
  - a. John's Gospel tells us:
    - “He had to go through Samaria.”
    - #John 4:4.
  - b. Jesus didn't literally “have” to go through Samaria.
    - He could have gone around.
      - #Down to the Jordan River.
      - #Up the Jordan River Valley.
      - #Then into Galilee.
    - But when the Scriptures use the term:
      - #“It was necessary.”
      - \*It usually has the meaning of divine necessity.
- 3. There was a divine purpose.
  - a. For Jesus to be in Samaria.
    - Jesus was a Jew.
    - Jews and Samaritans had a great disconnect.
      - #Racially.
        - \*Jews saw Samaritans as “half-breeds.”
      - #Spiritually.
        - \*Jews had their holy place.
          - +Temple in Jerusalem.
        - \*Samaritans had their holy place.
          - +Mount Gerizim in Samaria.
            - =Near Jacob's Well.
      - #Socially.
        - \*Jews and Samaritans didn't have much in common.
        - \*They certainly didn't share:
          - +Drinking fountains.
          - +Drinking cups.
    - But Jesus had a divine purpose in being there.

- b. For Jesus to be talking with this woman.
  - Men and women didn't usually associate in public.
  - Rabbi wouldn't even talk with his own wife in public.
  - #But Jesus had a divine purpose in talking with this woman.
- c. For Jesus being at that well.
  - Yes, it was the middle of the day.
  - Yes, Jesus was thirsty.
  - #But Jesus has more than well water on his mind.
  - \*When Jesus asks this woman for a drink.
    - +She protests:
      - = "How is it that you, a Jew,
      - ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"
      - John 4:9.
    - +Jesus turns the tables.
      - =He offers her water.
      - =He offers to fill her bucket.
      - In a way that:
        - #Five husbands.
        - #Her POSSLO.
        - \*Could never do.
      - Jesus offers her:
        - #Living water.
        - #Water that gushes up to eternal life.
        - #Water that splashes all over the place.
        - \*If you pour water out of a container.
          - +If there isn't another container.
          - =To confine it.
          - It goes all over the place.
        - \*Jesus' life-giving water isn't confined:
          - +To Jews and Jerusalem.
          - +To Samaritans and Mt. Gerizim.
          - +To Lutherans and Ascension LC.
    - +She took the water.
      - =Her bucket was filled.
      - She believed in him.
    - +She poured it all over town.
      - =Other buckets were filled.
      - Others believed in him.
      - Many others believed in him.
      - #They believed he was the Savior of the world.
      - John 4:42.



+Fantasy list.

=He doesn't have the wherewithal.

-To do the things on his list.

=Until Jack Nicholson comes along.

-Offers to pay for everything.

\*So they set off on this around-the-world vacation.

+Race car driving.

+Sky diving.

+Seeing the Pyramids.

+Lion hunting in Africa.

b. Is that what fills our buckets?

-I like to travel.

#As much as I can afford.

\*Time wise.

\*Money wise.

#I have been blessed to visit some marvelous sites.

\*Scattered throughout God's wonderful creation.

+I have walked on the Great Wall of China.

+I have snorkeled on the Great Barrier Reef.

+I have been to the Holy Land.

+I have walked in the footsteps of St. Paul.

+I have traveled through the land of Martin Luther.

#But there other places.

\*That are still on my bucket list.

-But what if I could visit all of the places on my bucket list?

#What if we could see all the places we wanted to see?

#What if we could do everything we wanted to do?

#What if we could buy everything we wanted to buy?

-Would our buckets be full?

#When we kick the bucket.

B. Jesus Fills Our Buckets.

1. In ways we can never do for ourselves.

a. While Jesus was at the well.

-With the Samaritan woman.

-In the middle of the day.

b. His disciples were in town.

-Buying food for lunch.

#When they came back from:

\*Grocery store.

\*Fast-food restaurant.

#They encouraged Jesus to eat something.

-Jesus said:

#"I have food you know nothing about."

- His disciples think:
  - # "Did somebody have an extra brown-bag lunch?"
  - # "Did somebody share their lunch pail with him?"
- Jesus says:
  - # "My food is to do the will of him who sent me."
  - \* John 4:34.

2. Jesus' bucket list.
  - a. Does not include:
    - Taj mahal.
    - Eiffel Tower.
    - Canals of Venice.
    - Leaning Tower of Pisa.
    - St. Peter's in Rome.
  - b. Includes:
    - Golgotha.
    - Wooden cross.
    - Rock-hewn tomb.
    - Easter resurrection.
3. So that our buckets might be filled.
  - a. Life-giving waters.
    - Baptism.
  - b. Bread and wine.
    - Our Lord's body and blood.
  - c. Love.
  - d. Forgiveness.
    - Gushing up to eternal life.
4. Jesus fills our buckets to overflowing.
  - a. So that not only do our buckets get filled.
  - b. That life-giving water.
    - Gets poured all around the town.
    - Gets poured all around the world.

- Concl: Lord:
- Fill my bucket.
  - Fill our buckets.
    - # Fill them to overflowing.
    - \* So that what fills our buckets.
    - \* Might fill the buckets of many.

