

Intro: High School graduation: Gave myself a gift: 5 day (7) canoe trip! Never been IN a canoe before: Seemed a good idea Made all the preparations, launched: Great trip! Capsizing at night over little waterfall, Almost rinning out of food. We kept looking for a place on map. Didn't know what it was... "Blue Hole" Arrived at night...looked like rest of water...black: Cool Woke up next morning...and this is what we saw! Amazingly beautiful! Artesian spring...enormous Thousands of gallons

That is the image Jesus uses to talk to us about the kind of spiritual life He wants to give to those that know Him

John 10:10 "I have come that you might have life...and have it overflowing in you!"

Overflow is defined in a number of different ways:

- *The excess or surplus not able to be accommodated by an available space or container*
- *To have more than sufficient; to have an abundance of something*
- *To have more than is needed, with some left over to share*

Today I want to start a conversation with you about the kind of life Jesus wants us to have. When He talks about overflowing life, or abundant life, Jesus has something in mind for us that is much greater than anything we can imagine! We hints of that

in: John 4:1-14 The woman at the well
John 7:37-9 Teaching at Feast

KEY: You can't miss this, or nothing else makes sense. When WE think abundant life:

1. We think QUANTITY: Life that lasts forever (and that is true...that is a PART of what Jesus means)

2. When Jesus talks about eternal life, abundant life, overflowing life He is ALSO talking about QUALITY of life!

Illus: Letter from a young woman to her sweetheart away in a war, during time of Jesus, using word for eternal (abundant) You have been gone a long time (eternal) and such a time (eternal) it has been. Long...and quality so different!

So, with that background, lets look at what Jesus means when He talks about giving us Overflowing/Abundant/Eternal life!

1. The Source Of Overflowing Life.

John 10:10 "whoever enters through me saved"

The life that Jesus is talking about is only available through Him. Not something we can create (Try, Substitute, Settle)

- Woman at well: "drink the water I give him..."
 - At Feast: "whoever thirsty come to me and drinks, whoever believes in me..."
- ~Thirst: Recognize our need (Something is missing)
~Come: Recognize that only way is in and through Him (Jesus is what I need)
~Believe: That He is the Messiah, The Promised One of God, (Put your trust in Him)

Applic: Have you done that? Has there ever been a time in your life that you, like the woman at the well, realized that your life is empty and without purpose, going nowhere. That you NEED a relationship with the Father...and you are willing to come, confess your sin to Him, seek forgiveness and relationship. At the end of the service today I'm going to give you the opportunity to do that.

2. The Substitute For Overflowing Life.

John 10:10 "the thief comes to steal, kill destroy"

One of the strategies the Evil One has is to offer a false substitute for the good thing God has for His children. So, for ever good gift God has the devil comes along and offers something different. Looks like the real thing, promises the same blessings and benefits. But, in the end...leads to death, disappointment.

- John 10:10 "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy: I have come that you may have life!"
- Gen 2:17 (tree of knowledge of good and evil) 3:6 (good for food, pleasing eye, gain wisdom")

Applic: We have to make a choice. Where are we going to pursue life? What are we going to invest in? If we choose the things of this world...the poor substitutes the devil offers us, then we follow a path that leads us away from God. For every good gift God offers, the devil will present a great looking substitute

- Committed loving marriage: Serial meaningless sexual relationships
- Invest life in serving God/others: Seek a life of power, acclaim and significance/influence
- Do Hard work of character transformation: Settle for aQuick fix of do it yourself, self help, external changes
- Building relationships that matter, sustain: One meaningless hobby, event, trip, experience after another

3. Characteristics Of Overflowing Life.

Jn 10:10 "have life overflowing in you"

So, what does this life LOOK like in practice? How do you recognize it, Pursue this...not substitute A lot of different ways to recognize it!

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|---------------------|----|-------------------|---|
| • Eternal | vs | Temporary | Never thirst again |
| • Spiritual | vs | Physical | Things of God, not Things of this world |
| • Satisfies | vs | Crave more | Never thirst again |
| • Internal | vs | External | Streams flow from within |
| • Bubbles up | vs | Draw up | Stream vs Cistern/Well Jer 2:13 |
| • Flows up | vs | Leaks out | Artesian spring vs broken cistern |
| • Abundance | vs | Lack | One is enough...other always seeking more |
| • Others blessed vs | | I'm blessed alone | |

Applic: Here is what you have to see. Both offer water. Only one fulfills the promise. Oh, you may get some water from the cistern of this world. Never last. Never satisfy. Have to work, slave, and constantly prime the pump. End: Death, Destruction

Illus: Granny Hedgepeth would say: *"Not enough sugar for a dime"* Cost is too high, payoff too low!

4. The Blockages To An Overflowing Life. John 10:10 "Thief Comes"

While Jesus offers this kind of life to us freely and fully, there are some things that can "Block" flow

- **Accept Substitute:** 1 Jn 2:15-17 Love the world...Love the Father?
One offers life...other death! Flesh, Eyes, Pride
Choice Adam and Eve made: Looked good...end led to death
- **No Caretaking:** Have to stay "connected" to the source! If you don't do that...stops flowing
Jer 2:13: Two sins 1. Forsaken me 2. Dug own cisterns cannot hold water
- **Sin** In that day when you conquered someone, and wanted to punish them you would fill in the wells, and salt the ground. Salt kept things from growing
Fill in wells would block the access, keep people from water...life!
That is what sin does. It blocks the flow of the Holy Spirit in our life. Source

Applic: As we develop this concept of Overflowing Life the first thing we are going to talk about is caretaking. What are the things we can do to insure we stay connected? What do we need to do to insure that the flow of spiritual life is both taking place...and taking place in sufficient volume...that our needs are met...and there is sufficient to flow in to the life of others around us!

5. The Blessings Of An Overflowing Life.

You see, when we are living an overflowing life, we always bring something to the table for others! In every relationship we have, it's not just about US, but about how God can USE us to bless others. Look at the life of Jesus. He always has something for those around him! Because He lived and life Overflow We can have that too. Here is what it looks like.

- **Learn from Jesus:** Character transformation, Connected to Him, He is transforming us:
Not just changing our mind Not being Convinced of Content (Pharisees)
- **Live Like Jesus:** Eternal Purpose/Impact: *I must be about my Fathers Business*
Son does nothing without Father
- **Love Like Jesus:** Sacrificial Service: This life is not just about me. Father, Others
Jesus life was lived for others.
Counterintuitive: Live for me...Hold On: Empty
Live for others...Give life away: Full

Applic: I was working on this sermon yesterday AM, at hotel in Frederick, away for wedding

Email came in: This is for all you SS teachers, AWANA teachers, Student teachers. Those of you that on Sat night, Sunday am think...not again...why do I do this? Is it worth it? Mom sent me this...used with her permission.

SLIDE OF CARTOON

CONCL: Are you living a life of Overflow? Have what you need...and something for others/
Do YOU have what YOU need? Or have you settled for a cheap substitute never satisfy?
If you have settled, come and let me pray with you, so that you can have the life Jesus offered

Are you Learning From Jesus? Growing, developing, keeping blockages out?
If not...time to change Don't miss this next series on Learning Fm Jesus: Sermon on Mount

Loving like Jesus? Making a difference in the life of others? Doesn't come easily. Just ask the teachers of the 8 yr old. Time, Effort, Sacrific...But I promise you...worth it all

TIFUL CHRISTMAS!