Devotion #243

**Jesus Our Healer**

**John 4:13-14 (NASB)** *“Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

Over the years I have had many times that my body was in need of healing. Usually, it was due to some stunt my brother and cousin and I were attempting or from some basketball injury. But one of the times of healing I remember most was when my dad was stationed at Fort Belvour, Virginia. I was somewhere between kindergarten and first grade. I don’t remember all the details, but I was having terrible pain in my hip joints, and it was excruciating. What I do remember was having to be in Walter Reed Army Hospital for a couple of weeks with my right leg in traction. I learned that my bones were growing faster than my muscles could keep up, and it was causing a bone-on-bone kind of action in the joints. My room was on a level high above the parking lot, and when my mom would leave for the night, I’m not sure why she left but I don’t think they would let her stay all night, she would flash the car lights so I could see them, telling me she loved my and would see me in the morning. As a little guy I remember that being very comforting. I also remember the day the doctor came in and cut away the bandages that held the traction apparatus to my leg. It was one of the most freeing feelings I had ever had. For a couple weeks afterward I had to use crutches so I would keep the pressure off my leg. That wasn’t a problem for me because when my brother and I would play cops and robbers, my crutch became a great way for me to have an advantage in the game.

Since then I have had many times that my body needed to heal. But nothing was more healing than when I gave my life to Christ. I remember well that my soul was not in a good place as I had allowed my flesh to take over much of my life and put me in a tailspin until Jesus rescued me. I remember well kneeling beside my bed and surrendering my life the Jesus. It was a great day.

There was a great day like that for many other people in Jesus’s time. The woman at the well is a great example of the power and willingness of Jesus to heal. She was a Samaritan, a people hated by the Jews for their intermarrying with other people outside of Judaism. This woman had evidently had many difficult times in her life, mostly with bad relationships with men whom she married and divorced. As Jesus sat at the well, she came to draw water by herself because of her reputation. In those days, the women who had been harlots or married and divorced like she had been were considered outcasts. So her days were filled with the need for healing, not of her physical body, but of her spirit. She was a broken woman, living each day for what it was and hating every minute of her life. I’m sure she wondered how she had gotten to that place in life, but Jesus is in the business of taking people who have made bad decisions and healing them. He longs to touch a person’s heart so that they have a new reason to live. He loves to make a new life for people so they can let go of the past and look forward to a future with joy and contentment welling up inside them. That’s what he did for the woman that day. He told her all about her life. He knew everything - who she had been married to and all her failures in her relationships. So He tells her that if she will believe in Him, He will give her a new life, like springs of water that will quench thirst and lead to never having to look for meaning and purpose again.

Are you that woman? Or even if you are a man reading this, are you like that woman? You know the difficulties of what life can be like. Every person knows the pain that bad decisions bring, even if those bad decisions were made by someone close to you but you were the recipient of their poor choices. If you are needing healing from something today, something internal, a spiritual healing, Jesus has the answer. He is our great Healer. He would love nothing more than to give you a new way of dealing with life so that you will be at peace, peace that passes all understanding, no matter your situation.