

# 25-0817a - Detailed Summary

## 25-0817a - *Empty Wells, Living Waters*, Tom Freed

**Bible Readers:** Kevin Woosley and John Nousek

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# Empty Wells, Living Waters

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 14:22)

## Scripture Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** (0:04 - 0:32): Kevin Woosley

**John 4:13-14:** Kevin opened the service by reading John 4:13-14, where Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well. The passage emphasizes the contrast between temporary, worldly water that leaves one thirsty again and the "living water" Jesus offers, which becomes "a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." This sets the foundation for the sermon's central theme: only Jesus can truly satisfy the soul's deepest longings.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** (0:37 - 1:18): John Nousek

**Psalms 63:1-3:** John followed with a reading from Psalm 63:1-3, a heartfelt cry from David expressing his soul's thirst for God in a "dry and thirsty land." The passage highlights the human longing for God's presence, power, and loving-kindness, which surpasses all earthly pleasures. This scripture complements the sermon's message by illustrating the spiritual yearning that drives humanity to seek fulfillment, often in the wrong places.

## Summary

**Preacher:** Tom Freed

### (1:23 - 4:46) Introduction to the Sermon: The Universal Thirst

Tom began by welcoming the congregation and noting the church's rotation of six preachers, humorously mentioning that John would preach that evening. He introduced the sermon's title, "Empty Wells, Living Water," and its core idea: humans universally thirst for purpose, peace, and fulfillment, yet often seek these in worldly sources that fail to satisfy. Drawing from John 4, Tom referenced the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well, where Jesus reveals Himself as the source of living water. He explained that worldly pursuits—such as pleasure, success, or material possessions—are like dry wells that leave us wanting more. Tom cited Hebrews 3:13 to underscore the deceitful nature of sin, which promises joy but delivers emptiness. The sermon's goal was to examine why worldly wells fail and how Jesus fulfills our deepest desires.

### (4:47 - 6:22) The Failure of Worldly Wells

Tom elaborated on the "empty wells" of the world, each promising happiness but ultimately failing to deliver lasting satisfaction. He identified several common pursuits:

- **The Well of Wealth:** Tom quoted Proverbs 23:5, likening riches to an eagle that flies away,

emphasizing how money vanishes quickly due to unexpected expenses like medical or car bills. Even substantial wealth cannot provide true security.

- **The Well of Success:** Climbing the corporate or social ladder may seem purposeful, but reaching the top often leaves one unfulfilled.
- **The Well of Pleasure:** Momentary thrills leave individuals emptier than before, as indulgence fails to satisfy the soul.
- **The Well of Relationships:** While human love is beautiful, it cannot fill the "God-sized void" in our hearts, as Proverbs 27:20 warns that human desires are insatiable when rooted in worldly things.

This section highlighted the fleeting nature of worldly promises and their inability to quench the soul's thirst.

### **(6:25 - 8:31) The Emptiness of Worldly Pursuits**

Tom reflected on the Samaritan woman's life, marked by broken relationships and shame, as a mirror for humanity's restlessness when seeking fulfillment apart from God. He cited King Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, where the wisest and richest man declared his pursuits "meaningless, a chasing after the wind." Tom used personal anecdotes, like the fleeting thrill of owning a new car, to illustrate how material possessions lose their allure quickly. He noted that even millionaires with vast possessions continue chasing more, underscoring the insatiable nature of worldly desires. This section reinforced the idea that worldly wells are inherently unfulfilling, leaving us perpetually thirsty.

### **(8:32 - 8:51) The Sin of Forsaking God's Living Water**

Tom quoted Jeremiah 2:13, where God laments that His people have forsaken Him, the "spring of living water," and dug their own "broken cisterns" that cannot hold water. This scripture served as a stark reminder that seeking meaning apart from God is a form of spiritual rebellion, resulting in futile attempts to satisfy the soul's needs.

### **(8:51 - 9:46) Jesus' Offer of Living Water**

Shifting to the solution, Tom highlighted Jesus' offer of living water as radically different from worldly wells. Referencing John 4:10, where Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that He can provide living water, Tom explained that this water represents God's grace, love, and presence, freely given to all who seek Him. Unlike worldly wells that require constant return, Jesus' gift is complete and eternal, fulfilling the soul's deepest desires.

### **(9:48 - 10:51) The Fulfillment Found in Christ**

Tom expanded on the nature of Jesus' living water, describing it as the source of true purpose, love, and peace. He referenced John 6:35 (Jesus as the "bread of life") and John 14:6 (Jesus as "the way, the truth, and the life") to emphasize that Christ satisfies all longings. Quoting Psalm 16:11, Tom highlighted that God's presence brings joy and eternal pleasure, offering a fulfillment that worldly pursuits cannot match. This section underscored the completeness of Christ's provision for the human soul.

## **(10:53 - 12:50) Practical Steps to Drink from the Living Water**

Tom outlined practical steps for embracing Jesus' living water:

1. **Recognize the Emptiness of Worldly Wells:** Acknowledge the futility of chasing approval, comfort, or control, as the Samaritan woman did by leaving her jar behind to embrace Jesus' offer.
2. **Come to Jesus:** Tom cited Matthew 11:28, where Jesus invites the weary to find rest in Him, encouraging daily engagement through prayer, scripture, and worship.
3. **Trust That Jesus Is Enough:** Referencing Psalm 23:1, Tom emphasized that Jesus meets every need and quenches every thirst.
4. **Share the Living Water:** Like the Samaritan woman who shared Jesus with her village (John 4:39), believers should proclaim Christ's goodness, inviting others to experience His love (Psalm 34:8).

This section provided a clear call to action, urging listeners to turn from empty wells and embrace Christ fully.

## **(12:51 - 13:59) The Invitation to Trust in Christ**

Tom concluded with a passionate invitation to trust in Jesus, the source of living water that never runs dry. Quoting John 7:38, he promised that those who believe in Jesus will have "rivers of living water" flowing through them. He urged those who have not yet trusted Christ to act, referencing Acts 22:16's call to be baptized and call on the Lord. For believers, he encouraged daily recommitment to drinking from Christ's well and letting go of worldly promises.

## **(14:01 - 14:22) Closing Call to Action**

In his final remarks, Tom invited the congregation to seek prayer or take a step of faith by coming forward. He emphasized the importance of communal support in seeking Jesus, encouraging listeners to pursue the living water that only Christ provides.

# **Conclusion**

Tom's sermon, "Empty Wells, Living Water," powerfully contrasted the fleeting promises of worldly pursuits with the eternal satisfaction found in Jesus Christ. Through scripture, personal anecdotes, and practical steps, he urged the congregation to recognize the emptiness of worldly wells, turn to Jesus for living water, and share His love with others. The message was a compelling reminder that only Christ can fulfill the soul's deepest longings, offering purpose, peace, and eternal life.