

Biblical Counseling Center publishes eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

### Jesus is the Living Water

By Sherry Allchin M.A.

We just returned from Israel where we saw and learned so much! I wish every believer could experience the Holy Land once in a lifetime. Our guide was a Messianic Jew who understood both the history and the applications Jesus made to everyday life in Israel, and she was able to communicate that in ways that helped us really understand the deeper meanings.

#### Only Living Water Cleanses



When we visited the temple ruins in Jerusalem we saw ritual baths all around the temple. Cleansing themselves was a common activity for the Jews as they prepared for worship. Yet the Pharisees had perverted even the ritual bath as they made bigger and better bathhouses like the Romans. It was designed by God to flow with living water to cleanse them. They circumvented the law and accomplished the letter of the law without fulfilling God's design for living water (flowing as opposed to stagnant) by running a little pipe that originated from living water from one bath to another, though it had little if any cleansing effect left by the process.

Why was living water so important? Because flowing water washes away the contamination and leaves the person or object clean. We use flowing water to wash our hands because it washes away the germs! But to put dirty hands in still water contaminates the water, or to touch an object makes it also dirty! When a Jew touched something unclean, like a dead person or a leper, they had to come to the ritual bath for cleansing. Jesus was saying He was the source of cleansing, the true "Living Water," and that touching the unclean leper did not make Him unclean, but rather He cleansed the leper! His statements infuriated the Pharisees who understood the meaning of living water. He was claiming to do for others what they could not, to cleanse.

#### Only Living Water Satisfies

Another time Jesus proclaimed to be the "Living Water" because not only could He cleanse a sinner's heart, only He could provide that deep drink that would keep sinners from ever thirsting again! He invites us all to drink from Him because He is the source of life, both physical and spiritual. He alone can turn dirty sinners into cleansed saints by purifying our hearts. He alone can satisfy our thirsty souls (Jn 4:7-14).

#### Counseling Application

Any other substitute cannot satisfy or cleanse. When we go to culture's sources for change, it is temporary at best. It may look like it does the job (just at the perverted ritual baths appeared to cleanse) but in the end it leaves the sinner's heart just the same – dirty and unchanged. Psychology offers little hope for true change. Biblical counseling works because it is based on "The Living Water" that cleanses sin and changes sinners!

*"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37,38*

#### Biblical Counseling Center

[Main Office](#) • 3233 N Arlington Heights Rd, Suite 302 Arlington Heights, IL 60004

[Scherverville Office](#) • 833 W Lincoln Hwy, Suite 115W Scherverville, Indiana 46375

[Fox Lake Office](#) • Fox Lake Community Church, 25 W Big Hollow Road Fox lake, Illinois 60020

Email [info@biblicalcounselingcenter.org](mailto:info@biblicalcounselingcenter.org) • Telephone (847) 398-7193

Copyright Biblical Counseling Center © 2010

Permission is granted to reproduce and distribute, in PDF format or paper copies for a group, in its original form.