

John 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

Analysis

Christ contrasts physical water with spiritual: 'Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.' Physical water temporarily satisfies but must be repeatedly consumed. This applies to all earthly pleasures, achievements, and relationships—they cannot permanently satisfy the soul's deepest longings. Only Christ provides lasting satisfaction. This diagnostic truth exposes humanity's futility: we drink from broken cisterns (Jeremiah 2:13) that never truly quench spiritual thirst.

Historical Context

The Samaritan woman came to Jacob's well at noon (unusual time, suggesting shame avoidance). Jesus uses this daily necessity—drawing water—to reveal spiritual truth. Ancient wells were communal gathering places; this woman's isolation highlights her social rejection. Christ offers what no earthly resource can provide.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What earthly things are you drinking from that leave you spiritually thirsty?
2. How has Christ satisfied your soul in ways that worldly pursuits never could?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτῇ	Πᾶς	ὁ
answered	G3588	Jesus	and	said	unto her	Whosoever	G3588
G611		G2424	G2532	G2036	G846	G3956	
πίνων	ἐκ	τοῦ	ὑδατος	τούτου	διψήσει	πάλιν·	
drinketh	of	G3588	water	this	shall thirst	again	
G4095	G1537		G5204	G5127	G1372	G3825	

Additional Cross-References

John 6:27 (Parallel theme): Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.