



JOHN 4:1-30– A SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS JESUS

A SUMMARY OF JOHN 4

John 4:1-26 – God the Son Revealed as Living Water

John 4:27-42 – God the Son Revealed as the Savior of the World

John 4:43-54 – Jesus Revealed as the One Worth Believing

John 4:1-4, “Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria.”

1. When the Lord knew... He left Judea:

How did Jesus know?

- A. Because of His rising prominence and popularity was evident, and therefore knew there would be a confrontation with the religious establishment in Jerusalem (**the Pharisees/Jewish rabbis and established hierarchy**). It was not time yet for a heated confrontation.
- B. **Jesus could sense (omniscient) = having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight, or possessed of universal or complete knowledge.** It comes from Latin roots meaning "all" and "to know".

2. Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples):

Note: Jesus' work of baptism was first referred to in John 3:22.

- A. Jesus considered it significantly important to baptize as a demonstration of repentance and cleansing in preparation for the Messiah.
- B. Here we learn that in the actual baptizing work, Jesus delegated that work to **His disciples**.
- C. Later, when the disciples began the practice of *Christian* baptism on Pentecost (Acts 2:41), their prior experience of baptizing was in connection with repentance, cleansing, and identification with the Messiah's work.

The importance of Repentance = Repentance in the Bible is a turning away from sin and a turning to God. It involves sorrow for sin, grief for having committed it, and a sincere desire to live in obedience to God's will. Repentance is essential for forgiveness, restoration, and a renewed relationship with God. It is a pivotal aspect of the spiritual journey and a response to God's grace and the Holy Spirit.

Is repenting of your sin(s) important to you?

3. He needed to go through Samaria:

- A. Although the road through Samaria was the shortest route from Jerusalem to Galilee, pious Jews often avoided it.
- B. Most of the Jews in Jesus' time *despised* the Samaritans, disliking them even more than Gentiles – because they were, religiously speaking, “half-breeds” who had a wavering faith/s(on again, off again) faith.

NOTE: It says that Jesus **needed to go through Samaria**. The need wasn't because of travel arrangements or practical necessities, but because there were people there who needed to hear Him.

John 4:5-9, “So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”

1. **The city of Sychar was ancient Shechem, the capital city of the Samaritans.**

- This is where Abram first came when he arrived at Canaan from Babylonia. (Genesis 12:6)
- This is where God first appeared to Abram in Canaan and renewed the promise of giving the land to him and his descendants. (Genesis 12:7)
- This is where Abram built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord. (Genesis 12:8)
- This is where Jacob came safely when he returned with his wives and children from his sojourn with Laban. (Genesis 33:18)
- This is where Jacob bought a piece of land from a Canaanite named Hamor, for 100 pieces of silver. (Genesis 33:19)
- This is where Jacob built an altar to the Lord, and called it *El Eloe Israel* (Genesis 33:20). This established the connection between Jacob and what became known as **Jacob's well** there in Sychar.
- Sychar (Shechem) was also the place where Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, was raped – and the sons of Jacob massacred the men of the city in retaliation. (Genesis 34)
- This was **the plot of ground that Jacob gave his son Joseph**, land Jacob had conquered from the Amorites with his sword and bow in an unrecorded battle. (Genesis 48:22)
- This is where the bones of Joseph were eventually buried when they were carried up from Egypt. (Joshua 24:32)
- This is where Joshua made a covenant with Israel, renewing their commitment to the God of Israel and proclaiming, *as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.* (Joshua 24)

2. **Being wearied from His journey:** John was letting us know that Jesus genuinely submitted to physical/human limitations.

3. **It was about the sixth hour:** By the reckoning John used, this was about noon, during the heat of the day. Anyone would want a refreshing drink of water.

John 4:7-9, "A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans."

1. A woman of Samaria came to draw water:

- This was an unusual hour to be drawing water.
- She came alone. (Typically, women came for water earlier in the day and they came in groups).
- Scenarios: Perhaps there was a sudden need; perhaps she was a social outcast, shunned by other women in the community.

Note: This woman's character is quite unusual. "She is of mature age and evidently has a dark and devious past. She is frivolous, ready to talk with strangers, with a tongue quick to turn grave things into jests; and yet she possesses, hidden beneath masses of unclean vanities, a conscience and a yearning for something better." (Maclaren)

- 2. The disciples had gone away into the city** = Perhaps passing her on their way into town.
- 3. Jesus said to her** = By tradition, a rabbi would not speak with a woman in public, not even with his own wife. It was also *very* unusual for a Jewish person of that time to ask a favor or accept a drink from a Samaritan's cup. Jesus' request genuinely surprised the woman. The disciples were also surprised that Jesus spoke to her (John 4:27).

NOTE: "STRICT Rabbis forbade a Rabbi to greet a woman in public. A Rabbi might not even speak to his own wife or daughter or sister in public. There were even Pharisees who were called 'the bruised and bleeding Pharisees' because they shut their eyes when they saw a woman on the street and so walked into walls and houses!" (Barclay)

4. Give Me a drink =

- A.** Jesus did not diminish His glory one bit by asking the help and cooperation of the Samaritan woman.
- B.** It worked toward the accomplishment of the divine purpose, the Father and the Son were *most* glorified in this display of love and goodness to the woman.
- C.** He who has living water asks for a drink from a well.
There is every reason to believe that she gave Jesus what He asked for.
As Jesus drank the water, or after Jesus drank the water from the well...she asked the question:

5. How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?

- A.** The woman was impressed by the friendliness of Jesus.
- B.** It was unusual for her to hear a kind greeting from a Jewish man.

6. Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

- A. The deadly hatred that subsisted between these two nations is known to all. The Jews cursed them and believed them to be accursed.
- B. Their most merciful wish to the Samaritans was, that they might have no part in the resurrection; or, in other words, that they might be *annihilated*.” (Clarke)
- C. This woman would have been despised by most of the religious leaders in the days of Jesus. She was a woman, a Samaritan, and a woman of questionable reputation.

Jesus looks at the heart of the individual. There are no outcasts in this world ...who have no hope of heaven.

2 Peter 3:9, “He (GOD) is not willing that any should perish, but that all might come to repentance.”

God is definitely pro-life, yet---“God is pro-choice (not defined as we do today) = the individual chooses to accept Jesus as the Savior, the Messiah, the Only Way to the Father.”

Jesus interests the woman in living water.

John 4:10, Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

The two (2) important principles and the main emphasis here are:

1. **The Gift of God...If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give Me a drink”:**
 - ✓ Jesus drew the woman into conversation, making her curious about several things.
 - a. He made her curious about the things of God (**If you knew the gift of God**).
 - b. He made her curious about who Jesus is (**who it is who says to you**).
 - c. He made her curious about what He could give her (**He would have given you living water**).
 - ✓ Paul, the Apostle, centers in on what the GIFT OF GOD IS...
Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2. **Living water:** Jesus meant the spiritual water that quenches spiritual thirst and gives life.

Spiritual thirst is a profound longing or desire for something greater than oneself. It is often associated with a search for meaning, purpose, and connection.

Jesus gives life and gives it abundantly!