

John 4

1-3 Look back at 3:26f. For some reason, Jesus wanted to avoid the attention of the Pharisees. When He heard they were aware that He had surpassed John in popularity, He moved back to the north. I think it was the same reason he told people not to speak about their being healed. Jesus knew that the more the Pharisees heard about the light, the soon they would have to put out the light. Why do you think Jesus did not baptize? What did it mean to the people to be baptized by Jesus' disciples?

4-6 Jesus could have gone the way most Jews went, but He chose to go through Samaria. The text actually says He had to. Why? Remember that Jesus only did what He was told to do by the Father. God had a lesson for the disciples. Later Jesus would tell them not to go to the Samaritans at a particular point in His ministry (Matthew 10:5-6 but look at 'all' in Isaiah 53:6). If they did not go at this time, they may have misunderstood and thought that God had a Jewish attitude toward the Samaritans. Could it be that they had to go that way because God had a lesson for the disciples? We might add that a hungry heart draws God. The sixth hour would be noon.

7-9 Jesus had arranged to be alone at the well. When the Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus asked for her to draw Him some. This was risky business for the Son of God. Not only was He talking to a woman with no one else around, but it was a woman of doubtful reputation. He would have to put His Jewish lips to her Samaritan jar to drink. Another rendering of verse 9 would be 'Jews do not use dishes that Samaritans have used'. The Jews considered Samaritans as half-breeds. They came from a remnant that did not go into exile and inter-married with the Canaanites. They had their own version of the Laws of Moses that Jews did not accept. Their traditions and convictions were different on many points. That didn't seem to bother Jesus. He wasn't into the Jewish way, or the Samaritan way, He was into God's way. She is amazed that He would even talk to her. Consider Matthew 10:42

10 What is 'the gift of God'? Look back at 3:16. Also Luke 11:13. Jesus is fulfilling the Servant Song of Isaiah 42:6. She will soon recognize who He is in verses 25 and 26. Jesus knows who is most needy. Jesus tells her that if she knew the gift and who He was, the shoe would be on the other foot. She'd be asking Him for living water. Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37-39; Revelation 21:6; 22:17

11 Here we go again, like the conversation with Nicodemus, she takes everything too literal. 1 Corinthians 2:14

12 Are you greater? 8:53 Man is so wrapped up in who is more important than whom! It is all about the glory of God, not man. But this man is God! Yes He is greater! Matthew 12:42; Hebrews 3:3

13-14 Jesus doesn't get into a debate, He just tells the facts. "I've got what you need! The water I give is self-perpetuating. It wells up into eternal life!" 6:35; 17:3; 7:38-39

15 Talk about a literalist! This lady thinks she is going to get a faucet on her tummy that is the fountain of youth. How patient Jesus is with our inability to understand the things of the Spirit!

16 Now Jesus is going to cut to the heart of the issue. This woman has a weakness. We all have one kind or another. He brings up her neediness.

17-18 She tells a 'white lie'. The Holy Spirit gives Him the knowledge to speak to the truth about her situation. God knows our weaknesses and our failures.

19-20 She wants to change the subject. Let's argue religion. This was one of the main contrasting points that the Jews and Samaritans argued over. Don't let people do that. Go to the heart of the issue. Don't argue in the flesh; present the Spirit's case.

21-23 Jesus says He is not on their side or your side, worship isn't about a location but the heart. Worship must be in spirit, (the very heart of man), but it must also be in truth (based on the true Word). But as for salvation, it comes from the Jewish people as the prophets predicted. The day will come when the location is not important. The Jews soon found it a necessity to focus on spirit and truth as they were dispersed from Jerusalem.

24 God is not bound to a location. Yes, we worship with our body, but it is our spirit that matters. A quadriplegic can worship as well a gymnast. There are different postures of worship but they are not essential. What is essential is that we worship from our spirit and in the truth of what God has revealed in Jesus. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me." John 14:6

25 She tells Him that she does know one truth, and that is that when the Messiah comes, He will be able to explain it all. The veil is lifting and she is beginning to see in the spirit.

26 "I that speak unto thee am He." No more veil. I'm glad she left her water jar, because I was concerned about Jesus physical thirst. He wanted a drink for His body, but more than that, He wanted her to drink from the River of Life.