

## John 4:1-26

*<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

1-6 Why did Jesus have to go through Samaria? It may have been at the urging of the Holy Spirit. It may be because He did not want the Pharisees to follow. It was a route they would never take because they believed all Samaritan women were unclean. It was also dangerous as Samaritans hated Jews. Jesus stopped at the well in Sychar. It is a well Jacob had dug centuries earlier. It is still there, now inside a small church.

Jesus was tired, what does that tell us. We should see that Jesus experienced everything we do. He understands what we face physically and spiritually. But the situation also set up this divine encounter.

What kind of woman goes to a well in the heat of the day? A woman who doesn't want to face the scorn of other women. If Samaritan women were bad, this woman was the worst of them. But we can never be too bad for Jesus. He doesn't see as man sees. He sees hurting hearts that need to be freed.

*<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)*

7-9 Jesus ask her for a drink. She is shocked because Jewish men think that by sharing the dish or cup the saliva of a Samaritan could cause evil to enter and defile you. Jesus doesn't accept the perverted belief.

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*

10 What an answer! Bet she wasn't expecting to hear that. The gift of God is salvation and the Holy Spirit and He is the one who will make it possible for her to receive both. Of all the people in the world to declare plainly this truth, it was the lowest of the low. It makes me think that perhaps Jesus reveals Himself most clearly to those who are the most broken and in need. That is my Savior!

*<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."*

11,12 In fact, that well is 100 ft. deep today. She asked the right questions. Where do you get this water and are you greater than Jacob?

*13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

13,14 This is a profound truth. Every physical thing only satisfies for a time and then you will need more – and more – and more. Nicodemus thought he could satisfy his thirst if he was really, really good. She thought she could if she was really, really, bad. Both ended up thirsting for more. The only thing big enough for the hole in our hearts is Jesus!

*15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."*

15 She is either misunderstanding like Nic in the last chapter (enter his mother's womb), or she is running with the analogy. I think it was a heart-cry for the solution to her emptiness.

*16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."*

16 Jesus is going to help her accept the answer to her need, but first He must point out that she has been searching in the wrong place. "Go call your husband." With some people he could say, "Show me your bottle," or "Hand over your pornography," or "How many hours have you been on social media today?"

*17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."*

17,18 The Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus that she was trying to fill the hole in her heart with men. Jesus was telling her He knew what her substitute for living water was.

*19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."*

19, 20 She tries to change the subject to theological issues. The Samaritans only had their version of the Torah and so they worshiped where Abraham worshiped on Mt. Gerazim. Jews have the Prophets which revealed that God wanted His temple in Jerusalem.

*21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."*

21,22 Jesus gave another surprising answer, "Neither!" She never heard that. He didn't avoid the fact that salvation would come from a pure Jew, Him.

*23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.*

23 But then He told her of the spiritual shift that was about to take place. It would no longer be a location, but God will seek out those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. It's not about a location but about the heart. Truth is the Word of God (John 17:17). Our spirit is our innermost being which comes to life when we are born-again (see chapter 3).

*24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

24 Another key verse! God the Father is a spirit and so if we are to truly worship Him it must be in spirit and truth. He is the foundation of all truth. Jesus declared that He is truth (John 14:6).

*25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."*

25, 26 She never had a conversation of such depth. Samaritans knew a Messiah was coming. They referred to Him as the Taleb. Like the Jews, they believed the Messiah would answer all questions of importance. Jesus answer in Greek is even more profound than our English translation. He literally says, "I AM speaks with you!"

Questions

What does Jesus tired condition tell us?

Why was His request a surprise?

Why was the encounter unusual?

What was the woman's real problem?

What was Jesus' solution?

How must we worship God?

What are you filling the void in your heart with?