

JOHN 4  
Believers' Fellowship  
October 15, 2023

SETTING THE SCENE

<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. <sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water.

*Where are we in the Gospel of John?*

*Significant pieces of the puzzle: Judea/Galilee; Samaria; Jacob's well; Jesus' weariness; a woman*

*Contrast Nicodemus and this Samaritan woman. What do they have in common?*

A MOST UNLIKELY CONVERSATION

<sup>7</sup> 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.)

<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."

<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."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> 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."

*What boundaries did Jesus cross to talk to this woman? (vv. 7-9)*

*"If you knew...you would have asked Him." What does this teach us about the Christian life? (v. 10)*

*What is "living water"? What other water passages come to mind? (v. 10)*

*"You have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep." Discuss. (v. 11)*

*How far has the woman "traveled" from verse 7 to verse 15?*

*What does Jesus' approach teach us about walking with people who don't know Him?*

## FROM PAIN TO PROPHET, FROM MOUNTAINS TO MESSIAH

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

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

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

<sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

*Why does Jesus "go there" about calling her husband? (v. 16)*

*Why does the woman "go there"? (v. 19)*

*What is Jesus teaching us about true worship of the Triune God? (vv. 21-26)*

## A MOST UNLIKELY EVANGELIST

<sup>27</sup> Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" <sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to Him...

<sup>31-38</sup> [Jesus talks with His disciples about food and harvest.]

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of His word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

*Why do you think John includes the detail about the water jar?*

*What is the essence of the woman's evangelism? (vv. 28-29)*

*How does this passage show us how the Lord typically works in someone's life? (vv. 39-42)*