

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

JOHN 4:4-26 • TV-472A

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“And he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith

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unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."

I'm going to be preaching today from **John chapter 4**. I'd like for you to get your Bible and I'll be going verse by verse in this message and covering several verses from the Gospel of **John chapter 4**.

Now I'd like very much for you to get your Bible and follow along with me. Most of you are familiar with this Scripture that I'm preaching from today. You've heard of the Samaritan woman or most people call this portion of Scripture "**THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**."

And you're familiar with it. You've heard many messages on this subject: "**THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**" or **John chapter 4**. But I believe if you're led of God to listen to this message today that you'll see some things that you have not seen before.

Now, our Lord was walking from Judea to Galilee and it says in **John chapter 4:4**; "*And He must needs go through Samaria.* He's going down from Judea to Galilee.

Now, to go from Judea to Galilee, you would take the most direct route; you would go through Samaria. But, however, most of these strict orthodox Jews would not go through Samaria. They would take the longer route around Samaria if they were going from Judea to Galilee.

They'd take the long route because the Jews and the Samaritans had no dealings with one another. But it says here that, "*Our Lord must go through Samaria.*" I'll tell you why He must go through Samaria.

Our Lord must go through Samaria because He has some sheep there. We know of one, the woman at the well. And then there were others it said who believed on Him in Samaria and "*Our Lord must needs go through Samaria.*"

It's just like He said to the disciples, "*The Son of man must be lifted up. If I be lifted up from the earth I'll draw all men to me.*" And our Lord has sheep in Samaria and He must go through there.

He said; "*Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. I must bring them.*" The Son of God must bring His sheep to Himself.

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There was an old pastor down in Texas named Doctor Gamble. I don't remember his first name but he'd been a pastor at this certain church for a long, long, time, and living in the same house and he had a flower garden. He raised roses.

And one day he was out working in his flower garden and a neighbor lady came over and she'd known him for years. She never attended his church. She went to church somewhere else. But they were friends and neighbors.

And she came over while he was working out in his flower garden one day and she said, "Doctor Gamble; do you believe in election? Do you believe the Bible teaches election, that God elected a people to salvation?"

He said, "I certainly do." She said, "Will you explain it to me?" He said, "Well sister, are you saved?" She said, "I am, I am. I'm a believer." He said, "Who saved you? She said, "God saved me."

He said, "God saved you; did He do it by accident or was it on purpose?" She said; "Oh I'm sure He saved me on purpose; it was no accident." He said, "That my dear lady is election. "Everything God does He does on purpose."

And when this Scripture says; "*Our Lord must needs go through Samaria;*" it is for a purpose. It's to fulfill His purpose and His will and find His sheep. It's like **Romans 8:28** says; "*And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called, according to His purpose.*"

Everything God does; He does on purpose. He said in Isaiah; "*Have I not purposed it and shall I not bring it to pass? Have I not spoken and shall I not do it?*"

"He must needs go through Samaria."

Now look at **verse 5**; it says, "*Then cometh the Lord Jesus to a city of Samaria called Sychar.*" And Jacob's well was there. Now I must pause here for a moment. You see, Jacob, many, years ago; Jacob gave this land to Joseph, many years ago.

And Jacob's well was there. And this well had served these people in the area of Samaria for many, many, centuries. But here's the thing I want you to notice; He came to Samaria to a city called Sychar and Jacob's well was there.

But it says in that next verse; look at it, **verse 6**; note this now; "*Jesus being weary with His journey sat down on the well.*" The Lord Jesus Christ being weary, tired, with the long journey, sat down on the well and it was noon.

Jesus weary? Isn't Jesus God? Yes, He is. Isn't Jesus "*The only begotten Son of God,*" almighty, all-powerful, eternal, deity, God almighty? Yes! And Jesus weary, Jesus thirsty, Jesus sitting down to rest and hungry.

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He sent His disciples into town to buy some food. Didn't He just feed 5,000 people with only five loaves and two fishes? Now you learn some truth here. Jesus Christ was weary, actually weary, tired, hungry and thirsty.

When this woman came to the well He asked for a drink of water. He made the seas and the lakes and the streams. And He makes it to rain. And here He is sitting; here's this man Jesus Christ. *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him. Without Him was not anything made that was made."*

And here He is sitting weary, tired, hungry, thirsty, on a well. What this Scripture is showing us emphatically is that Jesus Christ is a man. He's the God-man, as much God as if He had never become a man. As much man as if He had never been God, *"tempted (tested, tired) in all points as we are, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."*

You see, the Lord Jesus Christ by His unlimited power fed multitudes, healed sick people, gave sight to the blind, even raised the dead. But He never performed one miracle, not a single one, to relieve His own pain, His own distress, His own suffering, His own thirst, or His own hunger.

Satan said to Him when He had passed His 40 days without food one time said; "Make these stones into bread. You're hungry; make them into bread." He couldn't and be my substitute and be my Saviour and be my representative and yours because He had to be a man limited by the flesh.

That's right; Jesus Christ was a man. And He sat down on the well tired and weary, weary with the journey, *"A man of sorrows acquainted with grief."* In every respect and in all ways He was a man, the man Christ Jesus.

All right, look at **verse 7**; *"Then cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water."* And when this woman came; now it's noon and when this woman came to the well the Lord Jesus Christ said to her, *"Woman; give me a drink."*

Now this woman came to the well at noon to draw water. I'll tell you why she came at noon. You see, most women came to the well in the early morning. They got water for washing, for cooking, for cleaning their clothes, bathing, and they got it early in the morning before the heat of the day.

But here the sun is at its peak and there's no one there. This is a common gathering place. This is a place where people have been coming for water for centuries and there's no one there, not at high noon.

Christ is there sitting on that well. But this woman was a woman of poor reputation. She had been married five times. She was living at that time with a man who was not her husband. Everybody in town knew her and they knew about her life, her past and her present life.

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And she was embarrassed, just embarrassed to come to the well when the other women came. They would shun her or talk about her so she came when she was alone. The Master was there waiting for her because my Lord delights to show mercy.

Our Lord is merciful to sinners. David wrote; *“O Lord if thou shouldest mark iniquity who would stand? But there’s forgiveness with thee.”*

And here our Lord came to the well and sat down waiting on this woman, waiting because she was one of His sheep. He came there to meet her and to reveal himself to her.

This is so interesting. You are familiar with **John 4**, the woman at the well. You’re familiar with **John chapter 3** aren’t you, Nicodemus? Look at the difference. In **John chapter 3** there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus. They named him. He was a famous man.

Here in **John 4** is a woman; nobody ever knows her name. In **John chapter 3** here comes a man to the Lord Jesus, a man of great position and wealth and power. He was a man of the Pharisees, the highest office among the Jewish preachers, theologian.

Here in **John 4** is a poor, sinful, woman, married five times, in **John 3**, a favored Jew, in **John 4**, a Samaritan, in **John 3** a man of strict morals, integrity, law keeper and in **John 4**, an openly rebellious young woman.

In **John chapter 3** Nicodemus sought Christ. He sought Him for whatever reason I don’t know but he wanted to discuss theology with Him. This woman didn’t seek Christ; He sought her.

In **John chapter 3** Christ gave Nicodemus an impossible task; He said, *“You must be born again.”* That’s impossible with men, possible with God, but not with men.

In **John 4** He gave this woman a task she could do. He said, *“You give me a drink.”* And He said to her later: *“If you knew who was talking to you, you’d ask of me and I’d give you living water.”*

Oh my, she was shocked. Look at **verse 9**; and the woman was shocked when this Jewish man asked her, a Samaritan, for a drink of water. And she said to Him; “How is it that you being a Jew ask drink of me a Samaritan? Don’t you know that the Samaritans and Jews have nothing to do with one another? So how is it now that you’ve asked me for a drink of water?”

Oh I’ll tell you, the humility and condescension of our Lord; He came down. I’ll tell you; there’s the greatest distance between any two points is the distance between deity and humanity, Christ became a man. *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”*

Our Lord was identified with us, He came low in the flesh. *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation. Took upon himself the form (or habit) of a servant, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

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Oh the humility. Our Lord is the friend of sinners. He came down. He identified with us. And sitting on this well, here at high noon; He's talking to a great sinner, a needy sinner. And He says, "*Give me a drink.*" She said, "Don't you know the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans?"

Now look at **verse 10**. And He answered her and He said: "*Woman; if you knew the gift of God.*"

Now she had said, "Don't you know the Jews have nothing to do with us Samaritans?" He said, "*If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*"

Can't you just picture this thing? And this is reenacted all the time. Here stands a woman; I mean a needy creature, a sinful creature, a rebellious creature, in flesh, in sin, in need, in infirmities and in weakness.

And sitting right there looking at her is the Lord of glory, the creator of heaven and earth, the one who has all power. In Him is life, in Him is light, in Him is holiness, in Him is truth, in Him is salvation, in Him is redemption and in Him is everlasting life.

And this woman brings up the most foolish, simple, childish, thing in the world; "*Don't you know that the Jews don't have anything to do with the Samaritans?*" What childish, childish, talk, what foolishness.

Here's the Son of God and He says to her: "*If you knew the gift of God.*" What is the gift of God? It's eternal life. That's the gift of God. "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.*" "*And if you knew the gift of God (which is eternal life) if you just knew who was talking to you, who is He? You would ask of me and I'd give you living water.*"

"He was in the world and the world didn't know Him. He came to His own and His own received Him not."

People are sidetracked on all of the unimportant issues about divisions, denominations, arguments, splits, and all of these things, strife and envy. And here is the Lord of glory. Here is the Word of God. Here is the truth of God. Here is the salvation of sinners. Here's the sacrifice of the Son of God. Here is the righteousness worked out by the perfect Son of God. Here's the truth and yet they get on all of these other issues; "Don't you know that you're not supposed to have anything to do with us and we're not supposed to have anything to do with you."

Jesus answered and said unto her, "*If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him (if you could just consider and think) and he would have given thee living water. Ask me and I'll give you life.*"

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The Scripture says; *“You have not because you ask not. You ask that you might consume it on your lust but you ask and it’ll be given to you. Seek and you’ll find. Knock and it’ll be opened.”*

Do you know why eternal life is compared to water frequently in the Scripture? Christ said; *“I’m the living water. If any man thirst let him come to me and drink. Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”*

Do you know why water is a figure of salvation? I’ll tell you why, four reasons:

First of all: Water is the gift of God.

Secondly: Water comes from above. Even the water table depends on the rain from above. All water comes from above.

Thirdly: Water is the need of all people, everybody needs water.

Fourthly: Water is absolutely necessary; there’s death without it.

That’s why Christ is the water. And He says to this woman; *“Water is the gift of God. Water is from above. Water is the need of everybody, especially you. And without it you’ll die. Now if you knew the gift of God you’d ask me and I’d give you living water, life from above, eternal life, salvation.”*

Now listen to her. She still doesn’t understand and most people don’t. Listen to her. The woman said, *“You don’t have anything to draw with. The well is deep. Where do you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well and who drank from it himself and all of his children?”*

Oh how blind we are. We’re blind like she is. Christ is speaking of spiritual water, spiritual forgiveness, and spiritual life. And she’s bound to this earth and still talking about all these physical and material things.

That precious Scripture over in **Isaiah 53** where it says our Lord, *“By His stripes we are healed. He bore our sicknesses and our diseases.”* And everybody wants to talk about sicknesses of this natural body and the diseases of this natural body. And they want God to heal this natural body.

But this body is going to die. Someday it’s going to die no matter how many times you’re Healed; *“It’s appointed unto men once to die.”* But the Scripture here in **Isaiah 53** is talking about spiritual sickness and spiritual diseases and spiritual leprosy and spiritual need.

That’s what Christ is talking to this woman about, *“If you knew the gift of God.”* And it’s not to repair this old natural body; it’s to save our souls. It’s not to put away our cancers and put away our sin.

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It's not to make us to live always in this veil of tears and valley of shadows; it's to make us live always in glory. And He said: *"If you knew the gift of God you'd ask me and I'd give you living water."*

She said, "You don't have anything to draw with and the well is deep." Listen to Christ in **verse 13**; *"Woman; whosoever drinks of the water of this well shall thirst again."* You can drink this water every day and tomorrow you've got to have another drink and the next day another drink. You have to keep coming back to this well.

And you can write those words above every well of this world; *"Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again."* Because it can never satisfy thirst and it can never give satisfaction.

And you can put this over the political wells, the social wells, the material wells, and the religious wells. You'll never find any peace or rest or satisfaction in this world. It can't give it. The world cannot give peace, rest, joy and satisfaction.

And that's what He's saying here; *"Woman, who so drinks of this water is going to keep thirsting. But if any man drink of the water that I shall give him, (this spiritual life, holy life, salvation, redemption, the nature of God) he will never thirst again."*

"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. But that water shall be in him a well of living water springing up into everlasting life."

What is this water? It's the water I giveth, I giveth. It's spiritual life. It's the life of Christ. It's the water that I shall give him. It's the Spirit of God. It's the life of God in the soul. It's salvation.

It's a new heart, new nature. He'll never thirst again. He'll always have peace, joy, rest, and comfort in Christ Jesus, and hope. And this well, this water, this spiritual life, will be in him. He won't have to go somewhere to get it renewed and refreshed. It's in Him and it's springing up, springing up.

Are some of you are old enough to remember the old spring houses that we had years ago, back before people had refrigerators and before they had deep freezers and all of these things? We use to have; most folks in the country had a spring. Water came out of the hillside.

And you'd build a spring house over where the spring came out of the hillside so the animals couldn't get to it. And they kept their milk in the spring. They kept their watermelons and they kept all things in the spring house to keep them cool.

That's where they got their water. And that spring always flowed, just always flowed, never ran dry, just kept on flowing. And that's what Christ is saying: *"If you ask of me I'll give you living water, springing up within, and you'll never thirst again."*

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Well the woman said, listen; “Give me this water that I come no more to this well and draw water.” She’s tired. She wants Christ to keep her from having to work anymore and draw water and come to the well.

She said, “Give me this water.” She still doesn’t understand, she still doesn’t understand that He’s talking about spiritual life, spiritual thirst.

I heard a preacher the other day say; “God wants you to be wealthy and God wants you to be healthy in this world.”

“Lay up not for yourselves treasures on this earth but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Christ has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies, yes, wealthy riches in Christ, inheritance reserved for you, not here, there, and help in your heart and soul, not necessarily your body.

He’s got to get her attention now and He’s got to get her mind on her real problem, her real problem, her real need, her loneliness, her separation from God. So He says; look at **verse 16**; *“Go call your husband,”* just like that, right out of the clear blue.

He knew where her heartache was. He knew why she was here alone. He knew why she wasn’t here with the other women. He knew her sin, her shame, her life. He knew all of these things. He knew her. That’s why He crossed her path. And that’s why He came to meet her. And that’s why He came here to reveal himself to her.

But she’s got to learn it. She’s got to face it. And she looked at Him and said; “I don’t have a husband.” And He said, *“You well said you have no husband; you’ve had five. And the man you’re living with now is not your husband.”*

You see, her problem wasn’t physical thirst, physical hunger, physical poverty, and physical disease; her problem was sin. *“Your sins have separated you and God. The wages of sin is death. Sin when it’s finished bringeth forth death. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

And Christ is bringing her face to face with her real problem, sin, sin, sin. And she looked at Him and said; “Well, I perceive you’re a prophet.” And then she turned to her religion; she said; “Our fathers worship in this mountain. You Jews say you’re supposed to worship at Jerusalem.”

Our Lord said to her; *“Woman, believe me. The hour cometh when you shall neither in this mountain worship God nor in Jerusalem. You worship you know not what. But God is a spirit. And they that worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth.”*

So she shut up; she shut up to one thing and that’s when she said in **verse 25**; look at it, she said; “Well, the Messiah’s coming. I’ve read about the Messiah. I’ve heard about the Messiah that God’s going to send a Messiah; that God’s going to send a Christ, God’s going to send a

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Redeemer, and He's coming. And when He comes He'll straighten out all these problems. He'll show us all things."

And our Lord said: "*Woman, I'm He, I'm the Messiah.*" And I'll tell you; the Scripture says; she dropped her water pot. She ran down to the village. She said, "Come see a man that told me everything I've ever done. Is not this the Christ? Is not this the Messiah?"

And all the village came out and they heard Him preach. And many believed and some of them said to the woman: "*We believe, not because of what you said, but we've heard Him ourselves, we've heard Him ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*"

He must needs go through Samaria because there's a woman there who belongs to Him. And He had to bring her through all of this to get her to face her sins, her real need, not physical water but spiritual water, not worldly rest, spiritual rest, not worldly peace, peace with God.

And that's found in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. "When the Messiah comes He will tell us all things." Christ Jesus said; "*I am He!*"