

John 4

- I. 4:1-42 The Woman at the Well
 - A. 4:1-26 Conversation with the Samaritan Woman
 - B. 4:27-38 Teaching the Disciples
 - C. 4:39-42 The Outcome Among the Samaritans
- II. 4:43-54 Healing the Nobleman's Son

- This conversation will be very different from the one Jesus had with Nicodemus.
 - Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, well-educated, held in high esteem. Jesus emphasized to this well-respected elder that he must be born again.
 - This nameless woman was a Samaritan, despised by Jews and held in low esteem by her own people. She is surprised that Jesus even speaks to her. He meets her alone at a well and tells her about living water.
- Jesus addressed each person He met as an individual. He met them at their own level and at their precise point of need.

I. 4:1-42 The Woman at the Well

A. 4:1-26 Conversation with the Samaritan Woman

- i. 4:4 *He needed to go through Samaria* At that time Most Jews went many miles out of their way to avoid going through Samaria. Why did Jesus need to go there? To have the conversation that we are reading about right now.
- ii. 4:6 *sixth hour* About 12 noon.

being wearied from His journey Jesus the Man was weary. Jesus the Son of God was about to use this opportunity to change a woman's life.

- iii. 4:9 *Jews have no dealings with Samaritans* By simply asking for a drink, Jesus has slammed into generations of controversy – and the woman decides to point that out. The Jews and Samaritans were divided in two big areas:
 - a) **Ethnically** Samaritans were a mixed people group – part Jewish, but part not. Their Israelite ancestors mixed with people of the other nations beginning at the time of the Assyrian captivity. So they were kind of Jewish, but not pure Jews.
 - Population 2007: 712, most of these right on Mt Gerazim
 - b) **Religiously** Their faith was an impure or mixed faith. It combined the five books of Moses and elements of Jewish ritual with special Samaritan beliefs. For example, they believed Mt Gerazim was the location of Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac and the correct location for the Temple, rather than in Jerusalem.

- iv. 4:11-12 The woman really doesn't know what Jesus is talking about. She's also being a little bit bold or brash with Jesus here, just as in v.9.
 - v. 4:15 Many times people put up a bold or overly confident exterior in order to hide their hurts. This woman is probably doing a little of that, but now Jesus is about to break through her bold, brash exterior and touch her heart with one question.
 - vi. 4:17-18 Good answer. Here's why: And Jesus explains her life to her.
 - a) Application: Jesus makes the distinction between her five marriages and her current unmarried partnership. We should too.
 - Our culture now says it's enough to love one another and be committed to one another, and then to move in and act as if you are married. Alas, love and commitment do not make you married. A wedding makes you married.
 - But, you may object, so many marriages end in divorce. Very sad and very true. Once you are married we can then work on how you can best stay married, so you don't end up like this poor woman with five marriages and five divorces.
 - vii. 4:20 She returns to the Jewish-Samaritan controversy. This may be:
 - a) A convenient way to try to avoid the fact that Jesus has just laid her difficult life open like a book.
 - b) A way of saying, "I know my life's a mess, but I really want to worship God. Can You help me? I don't know where or how to reach Him.."
 - viii. 4:22 *You worship what you do not know* This is so true of so many people.
 - ix. 4:23-24 *in spirit* not in the flesh We must come to God on His terms, not our own, and with a heart that is truly submitted to Him.

in truth not in falsehood We can't just believe anything we want. We must believe what God reveals about Himself.
 - x. 4:26 This is the first recorded time that Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah – and He did so to a Samaritan woman.
- B. 4:27-38 Teaching the Disciples
- i. 4:27 *they marveled that He talked with a woman* In that culture it was very unusual for a man and woman to have a conversation.
 - ii. 4:28-30 The woman is already an evangelist – and she even forgot her waterpot.
 - iii. 4:34 Doing the will of God is the most satisfying thing we can do.

C. 4:39-42 The Outcome Among the Samaritans

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- i. **Application:** Our Samaritans can be anyone near us geographically who is very different from us. Jesus sends us to people that we might not associate with in everyday life. Think of Jonah and the people of Nineveh.

II. 4:43-54 Healing the Nobleman's Son

- A. 4:47 Cana and Capernaum were about a full day's journey apart.
- B. 4:48 Jesus seems as if He is not going to do anything for the man.
- C. 4:49 The man begs more sincerely.
- D. 4:50 Jesus gives him what he asks, but the man has to exercise faith. He has to walk away without Jesus and simply believing that his son will be healed.

*"A saint is to put forth his faith in prayer, and afterwards follow his prayer with faith."
– Vavasor Powell*

- E. **Application:** How many times do people give up in prayer because it appears as if the Lord is not going to give them what they ask.
- Do you still believe that it is God's will? If so, then keep asking.