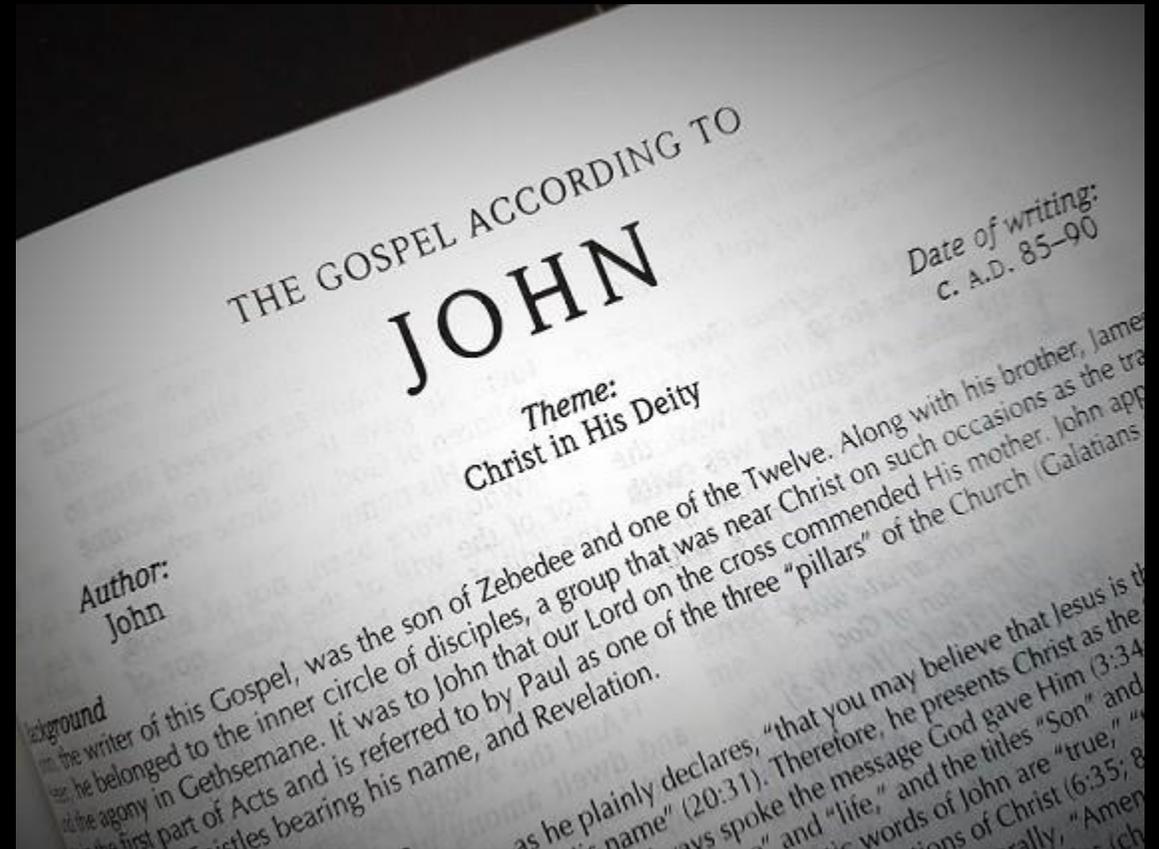


Verse by Verse

John 4



Previously in John

Previously in John

- Christ's conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 gave us a clear example of our need to respond to Jesus.
- He was a Pharisee and a ruler who came to Christ at night to have a conversation.
- Jesus confronted him with the need to be “born again” or “born from above” – to be renewed by the Spirit.

John 4 Introduction

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- This chapter will mainly show us Christ's conversation with the **woman at the well**.
- She is the **opposite of Nicodemus** in several ways.
- Together they show us how Jesus is the Savior of every kind of person.
- This chapter also gives us Christ's **second sign** miracle in John – the healing of an official's son.

John 4 Key Verses

John 4 Key Verses

- John 4:25-26 (ESV)

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.”

John 4 Outline

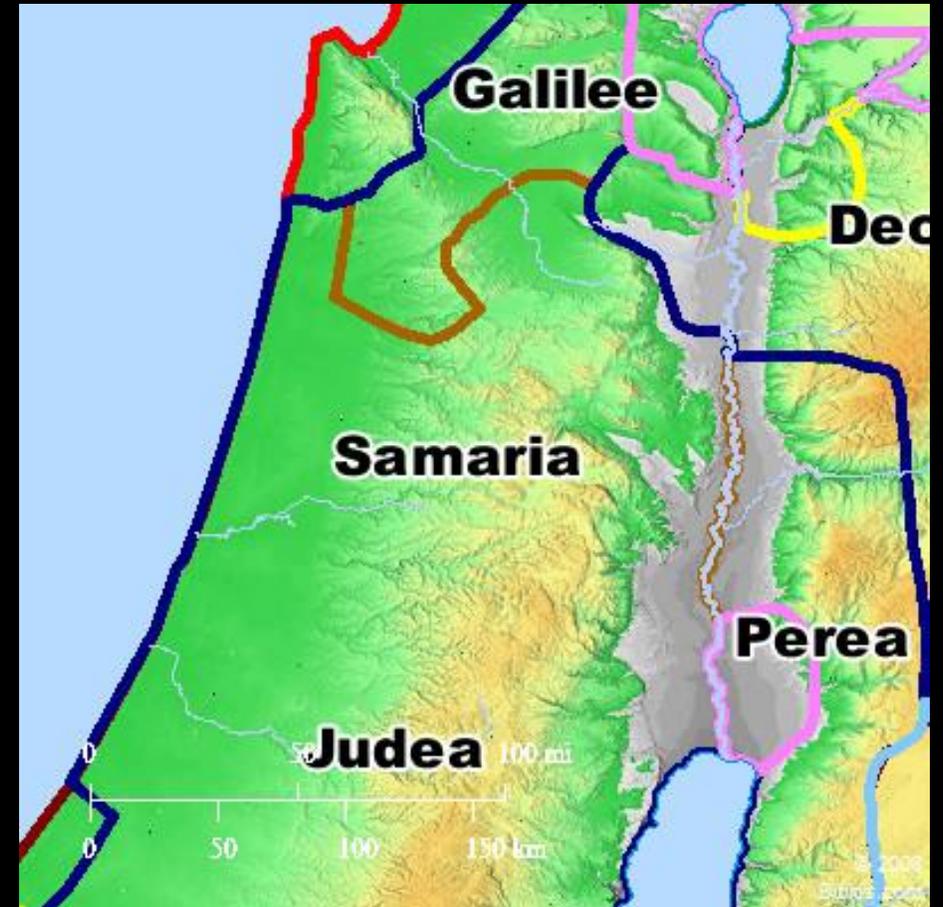
John 4 Outline

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26
2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42
3. Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

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- 4:4 he had to pass through Samaria
- This was a divine necessity, not the usual route.
- Even today it is normal to follow the Jordan River Valley between Jerusalem and Galilee. ¹



1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:6 sixth hour = 12 noon for us.
- Women would have normally come for water at a cooler time of the day.
- 4:7 It was also unusual to come alone.
- The woman was probably marginalized among her own people for reasons that Jesus reveals.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:9 *you, a Jew* So far the woman sees Jesus as only a random Jewish man.
- This will change step-by-step as we move through their conversation.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:9 Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.
- Jesus reaches across these ethnic and religious lines to impact the life of this outcast woman.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:10 living water
- Jesus often used the most normal circumstances to lead people to greater spiritual truths.
- But sometimes people don't find that easy to follow.
- In this case Jesus uses the term living water, which we find elsewhere in the writing of John.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- John 7:37-39 (ESV)

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- Revelation 7:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob?
- The woman probably thinks the answer is no.
- Still, this is moving at least a baby step farther than thinking Jesus is just a random Jewish man.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:16-18 Go call your husband ... I have no husband ... You are right ... you have had five ... and the one you have now is not your husband.
- This probably is why the woman did not come to the well with the other women of the village.
- Jesus was willing to deal respectfully with a woman that even other Samaritan women had rejected.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:16-18 Go call your husband ... I have no husband ... You are right ... you have had five ... and the one you have now is not your husband.
- It also shows us that Christ notices whether a couple is married or not.
- He didn't look down on her, but it did matter to him.
- He was the friend of people just like this.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:19 Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.
- Her understanding is growing even more.
- 4:20 But now, as many people do, she brings up a point of religious controversy.
- Nothing like a controversial issue to draw attention away from your own issues!

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:21-24 To sum up, Jesus says the Jews actually have this one right and salvation is from them.
- But the bigger issue is that people need to “worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”

2. God So Loved the World 3:16-21

To “worship the Father in Spirit” is to have a heart that is in pursuit of an intimate spiritual relationship with the God who is Spirit (4:24). To worship God “in truth” is to worship him in a biblically accurate way ...

*– Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship*



2. God So Loved the World 3:16-21

... The Father wants such people to worship him (4:23). God is on the hunt for those who will worship him spiritually through Jesus Christ based on the truth of his Word. ²

*– Tony Evans,
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1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:25-26 The Samaritans had a belief in one they called the *Taheb* or “Restorer.”
- He was their equivalent of the Jewish Messiah.
- Even though she was both morally and theologically confused, she managed to think of this Restorer.
- This is the opening Jesus is looking for.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- 4:25-26 Now Jesus simply introduces himself to her as this Taheb, Restorer, Messiah or Christ.
- It is still fairly early in the ministry of Jesus.
- And he reveals himself directly to this outcast among outcasts of a woman.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- Jesus directly confronted Nicodemus, with his need to be born again.
- By the end of the Gospel that man looks like he becomes a true convert.
- We see him helping Joseph of Arimathea with Christ's body, preparing it for burial.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- Here Jesus directly yet thoughtfully, and not harshly, points out this nameless woman's need for him.
- She moves gradually from seeing Jesus as a random Jewish man to seeing him as the Messiah.

1. The Woman at the Well 4:1-26

- Most of us have felt shoved aside or marginalized at times – some more than others.
- For some like this Samaritan woman, and maybe for you, feeling left out is sort of your main identity.
- Yet Jesus went out of his way to meet her.
- She is why he had to pass through Samaria.

2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42

2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42

- 4:34 Speaking with this woman was an assignment Jesus got directly from the Father.
- 3:35-38 There is no time like the present to get involved in the work of harvesting souls for Christ.

2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42

- 4:39-42 This woman was no great spiritual giant.
- Still, she met Jesus and was able to tell the people she knew about him.
- And eventually they were able to meet Jesus for themselves.

2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42

- To the Jews, the Samaritans were the ethnic and religious outcasts.
- To the Samaritans, this woman at the well was an outcast of another kind.
- Thanks to Jesus, she became the first among many converts in the village of Sychar, Samaria.

2. The Disciples Return 4:27-42

- Nicodemus was about as religiously and socially connected as anyone could get.
- The Samaritan woman was about as religiously and socially disconnected as anyone could get.
- Jesus loved them both.
- He now moves back up in his social circles.

3. Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54

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- 4:46 According to Google Maps, it is about 25 miles from Capernaum to Cana in Galilee.
- It takes a little over a half hour today in normal traffic.
- It takes between seven and eight hours to walk, so that was a full day of walking to see Jesus.

3. Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54

- 4:49-50 Sir, come down ... Go; your son will live.
- This man had to step out in faith at the word of Jesus.
- He had to walk away from him knowing it was a full day's walk to get home.
- Wouldn't it be great if we could always see the results of our prayers immediately?
- You may have noticed that does not always happen.

3. Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54

- 4:54 This was now the second sign ...
- By the time we get halfway through the Gospel of John, we will see seven miraculous signs from Jesus.
- After that comes Christ's time in the upper room with his disciples.
- Then comes his death and resurrection.

3. Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54

- All that John writes, he writes so that we may believe.
- John 20:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 4 What We Just Read

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John 4 Key Points

John 4 Key Points

1. Christ loves to reach out to outcasts like the Samaritan woman at the well.
2. If you are such a person, Jesus certainly wants to reach out to you.
3. Even if you are not such a person, maybe he wants you to reach out to someone like her.
4. We, like the official in Cana, may have to step out in faith to see answers to our prayers.

John 4 Key Points

5. The signs that John records, he records so that we would believe in Jesus as the Messiah.
 - That means putting our complete faith and trust in him both for forgiveness and to receive eternal life.

John 4 A Prayer

John 4 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- You reveal your heart toward those that have been set aside by others in the way you sent Jesus directly to this Samaritan woman.
- He then reveals his heart in the way he gently but directly made himself known to her.

John 4 A Prayer

- We pray that you would do the same for us and for others that we know – make yourself known in the most personal way that you can.
- Show us how we might join with you by making you known to those who are marginalized in this world.
- Help us also to exercise as great a faith as the official with the dying son.

John 4 A Prayer

- Help us to put in the same amount of effort to get close to Jesus – the kind that would walk a full day to see him if needed.
- And help us to be willing to trust you even when we do not see the immediate answers to our prayers.
- You can be at work whether we see it or not.
- In Christ,
- Amen

John 4 References

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