

JOHN 4:1-42 Study (NLT) "WATER" November 29, 2009

• **THE MAIN POINT:** SALVATION ENCOUNTERS. Jesus reaches out to the woman at the well to bring her into a saving relationship with himself. Earlier Nicodemus reaches out to Jesus and appears to be brought into a saving relationship with Jesus. We have the same experience in our churches and our relationships. Some people come to us and some we reach out to. *"The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."*

4:1-9 Jesus and his disciples travel from Northern Israel to Samaria, to the village of _____. Jesus is _____ from his long travels and he is thirsty. He sits by a well and when a Samaritan woman comes to draw water, he asks her for a _____. The woman was surprised that he would want to drink out of her bucket because Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.

NOON: This was the hottest time of the day. Women normally carried water home during the cool hours of the day, but this woman was a social outcast because of her promiscuous lifestyle and was forced to go at this time.

WHY: *"Why are you asking me for a drink?"* There were 3 reasons that it was inappropriate for Jesus to socialize with this woman and receive water by her hand. **(1)** She was a Samaritan—a half-caste Jew and considered untouchable by Jews. The Samaritans were the descendants of poor Jews who were left behind when most of Israel was carried into captivity by the Babylonians. They had intermarried with heathen people. The Jews felt they were incapable of being spiritual. **(2)** She was a woman and a Jewish man would not approach a woman in this sort of situation. **(3)** She was actively involved in public sin. She was promiscuous and lived with a man who wasn't her husband. A Jewish rabbi would not associate with a known sinner. • It was an act of love and acceptance for Jesus to ask for this woman's kindness. His acceptance prepared her heart for salvation.

4:10-14 Jesus came for every person's salvation. *"I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life."* (5:24) So he initiates a conversation with this lost soul. He does not start by witnessing or preaching to her. He talks to her about _____, something they have in common. He asks her for a _____ of well water. Then he offers her His kind of _____ water. She is confused just like Nicodemus was confused when Jesus talked about being *born again*. She comments he has no _____ and no _____ and the well is _____. And furthermore, how can you offer _____ water than our ancestor Jacob who dug this well? However, Jesus is talking about water for the soul which can become like a perpetual _____ within them – not for keeping the body alive today but water that gives _____ life.

LIVING WATER: The Lord was offering her an indwelling presence of God the Spirit - whose presence is joy—whose presence satisfies the deepest need and longing of the human soul. The Spirit would satisfy the hole in her soul she was trying to fill with intimacy with men. • Jesus said, *"If you are thirsty, come to me! If you believe in me, come and drink."*

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For the scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within. (When he said this, he was speaking of the Spirit who would be given to everyone believing in him.)" John 7:37-39 The first thing He does when He approaches the believers upon His resurrection is to breath on them and impart the Holy Spirit to them by saying, *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* (John 20:22) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, 50 days later. Acts 2:1-4

4:16-19 Now comes the moment of truth—the moment of possible repentance—the changing of one's mind about their life. The Spirit lives in the same place that people's life addiction is planted—the thing people use or do to try to make themselves happy. In her case, perhaps it could be called a sexual addiction. He says, *"Go and get your _____."* She says, *"I don't _____ a husband."* Jesus says, *"You're right! You don't have a husband—for you have had _____ husbands and you aren't even married to the man you are _____ with now."*

4:20-24 The woman now tries to change the subject, to put off coming clean. She asks an unrelated question people argued about which was, which church is the best church? Why do the Jews insist that God must be worshipped in _____ (Mount Zion) while our ancestors thought Mount _____ was good enough? Jesus says that it won't _____ any more what place you worship the Father. The place God is moving to is the human heart. (I Corinthians 6:20) People will come to their churches and although there may be a sense of God's presence, where they will really worship him will be within themselves – in their _____ and in truth. They will get real with God. God is a _____, not a building. He desires to live in fellowship with the spirit of people.

TRUTH: The word "truth" in the Greek is ALETHIA. "A" means "not or without something." LETHIA means "to be hidden, to escape notice." So truth means "not to be hidden or to escape notice but instead to be exposed and revealed." God is truth. God does not lie. God sees our hearts. Nothing is hidden from Him. So to worship Him means total self-exposure to Him. David said to the Lord, *"You desire honesty from the heart, so you can teach me to be wise in my inmost being. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean... Oh, give me back my joy again.... Create in me a clean heart... Restore to me again the joy of your salvation."* Psalm 51:6-12

4:25-26 The woman tries another dodge. I'll deal with this later when the _____ comes. Jesus looks her in the eye and says, *"_____ the _____!"* She had come to the point of decision. It appears from what follows that she decided for Jesus.

4:27-30, 39-42 The woman goes back to the village a noticeably different person with a glow about her. She tells her neighbors, *"_____ and _____ a man who told me everything I ever _____!"* And they did. (4:39) Many Samaritans _____ in Jesus because of what the woman said. Jesus stayed for two days to tell his _____ and many believed. They said they did not believe because of what the woman said but because they had _____ him for _____, which means a

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transaction between their souls and the Lord took place. They witnessed, "He is indeed the _____ of the _____!"

4 : 31-38 While the woman was going to tell her neighbors about the Lord, the disciples return and urge the Master to _____. He says he really isn't very hungry—he has been nourished by doing the _____ of God – which was that people be saved. The people of Sychar were at that time streaming down the hill toward him looking like a field ripe for harvest. Jesus said the harvest is "People being _____ to eternal life."

•BREAD The people who eat of Jesus, the living bread, are given a food that gives eternal life. *"And now my Father offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am the Bread of Life." John 6:33-35*

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____