

The Gospel of John: Living Water

John 4:1-26

The Samaritan Mission (4:1-6)

- Despite Jesus' success in ministry in Judea, He decides to return to Galilee
- Jesus chose to return to Galilee through Samaria, though that was not the usual route for Jews
 - Jews & Samaritans had a strained relationship even though they were related
- This route brings them near the Samaritan town of Sychar, where Jacob had dug a well
 - This well is fed by an underground spring

The Water of Life (v. 7-14)

- While Jesus' disciples are gone getting supplies, He is met by a Samaritan woman, whom He asks for a drink
- She is shocked because:
 - Men & women usually didn't interact when alone
 - Jews & Samaritans typically avoided each other
 - Jesus was not concerned with societal norms
- Jesus tells her that He can offer her living water
 - Running water, like what the well provides
 - Water that gives life: a metaphor used by the OT prophets for God's grace, knowledge, life, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit (Jer 2:13; Zec 14:8-9; Ezk 47:9)
- The woman hears the natural meaning (like Nicodemus; 3:4)
 - Asking if Jesus is claiming to be greater than Jacob
- He is offering spiritual renewal & eternal life through the Holy Spirit (Isa 12:3; 44:3; 49:10; **55:1-3**; Jer 31:29-24; Ezk 36:25-27; Joel 2:28-32; John 6:63; Rev 7:16)

The Loving Confrontation (v. 15-18)

- Jesus, knowing her situation, asks to meet her husband
 - Her presence at the well at noon and alone shows that she is a social outcast (v. 6)
- He is revealing her sin to show that He has come to cleanse her of it

True Worship (v. 19-26)

- The woman concludes that Jesus is a prophet
 - Someone with spiritual insight
- She may be trying to turn the conversation away from her sin
- She asks about one of the greatest points of contention between the Jews & Samaritans: Where to worship
 - Jews worship in Jerusalem at the Temple (1 Kgs 6)
 - Samaritans worship at Mt Gerizim (Gen 12:6-7; Dt 11:29-30; 27:2-7, 12)
- Jesus corrects her
 - Her religious heritage limits her knowledge of the truth
 - Worship is not about where; it is about how one comes to God who is Spirit
 - One must come through the Spirit & in truth
 - Jesus is the true Temple who provides the Spirit, allowing access to God through faith in Him always and everywhere

- She claims that Messiah will show them what is true
 - Jesus clearly tells her that He is the Messiah!

So What?

- Do we approach God through Jesus?
 - Or are we trying to dig our own “wells”?
- Do we let social norms get in the way of sharing Jesus’ love with others?

Meditation Verse: John 4:14

Next Week’s Scripture: John 4:27-42