

John 4
The Woman at the Well
The Persistent Official

I. Deja Vu (in reverse!)

- A. *Now when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³he left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴He had to pass through Samaria.*
- B. Acts 8:1 *And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

II. Dialogue

- A. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about the true nature of desire
- B. Notice three things about this dialogue:
1. PETITION that Jesus makes
 - a. **Request - 5** *Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.*
 2. The PATIENCE that Jesus shows
 - a. **Rebuke - 9** *The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" --For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.--*
 - b. **Repetition - 10** *Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*
 - c. **Ridicule - 11** *The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"*
 3. POINT that Jesus makes
 - a. **13** *Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

III. Directness

- A. *15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.*
- B. You can't fill a cup with water if it's filled with sand
- C. Truth is she's in the flesh and the flesh and the Spirit are directly opposed:
1. Gal 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are directly opposed to each other
- D. Jesus speaks the truth to her

IV. Deflection

- A. *19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."*
- B. She changes the subject by getting into a religious discussion
- C. Some people confuse religion with spirituality or holiness
- D. But even Atheists can discuss religion
- E. But Jesus is gentle and answers her
- F. Sometimes you just have to respect where a person is

V. Disclosure

- A. *25 The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you."*

VI. Decision -

- A. **28 *The woman left her water jar and went into the town***
- B. The water jar is a symbol of her dependance on the world and the things of the world to satisfy her deepest needs.
- C. Now she casts it aside - acknowledging that the world can no longer satisfy
- D. What water jars do you and need to cast aside?
1. Those things that keep us going back to the well of the world?
 2. Those things we think will fulfill us, but all they do is make us more thirsty? And fail to satisfy
 3. Oh if I just get that
 - a. New car then I'll be satisfied
 - b. New relationship then I'll be satisfied
 - c. That new job, then I'll be satisfied
 - d. New house, then I'll be satisfied
 - e. More money then I'll be satisfied
 - f. More toys, more gadgets, more gizmos then I'll be satisfied
 4. And it never works.
 5. This water jar just won't cut
 6. Maybe it's time to try God.
- E. See, now she knows that those things alone cannot satisfy for my desires are infinite.
1. Only God can fully satisfy
 2. It's time to cast aside the water Jar
 3. And think that if I just go back to world one more time
 4. Then I'll be satisfied
- F. I have it on the best authority that as she went into town she was singing a gospel song:
1. God is the joy and the strength of my life, he moves all pain, misery and strife. He promised to keep me, never to leave me, he's never ever come short of his word. I've got to fast and pray stay in his narrow way, I'll keep my clean each and every day. I want to go with him when he comes back, I've come too far and I'll never turn back. God is my all and all!

VII. Declaration

- A. **29 *and [she] said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" They went out of the town and came to him.***
- B. When you've really heard good news or had a great experience you can't wait to share it.
- C. Is this true for you?

VIII. Discourse with Disciples

- A. *Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he [had been] talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Has any one brought him food?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. ³⁶He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*
- B. Sometimes we're hungry because we didn't sow any seed for there to be a harvest
- C. The fields are white with harvest?
- D. He who reaps receives wages
- E. Teamwork, patience

IX. Demonstration

- A. *And from that city many believed in him, of the Samaritans, because of the word of the woman testifying,—"He told me all things—as many as I did." ⁴⁰When, then, the Samaritans came unto him, they were asking him to remain with them, and he remained there two days; ⁴¹and many more did believe because of his word, ⁴²and said to the woman—"No more because of thy speaking do we believe; for we ourselves have heard and known that this is truly the Saviour of the world—the Christ."*
- B. Faith comes by hearing
- C. But ultimately faith has to be personally assimilated

X. Destinations

- A. ⁴³After the two days he departed to Galilee. ⁴⁴For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast, for they too had gone to the feast. So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine.

XI. Designations

- A. *And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸Jesus therefore said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” ⁴⁹The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went his way. ⁵¹As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was living. ⁵²So he asked them the hour when he began to mend, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live”; and he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.*
- B. Request vv. 46-47
- C. Rebuke - v. 48
- D. Rejoinder - v. 49
- E. Rendering - vv. 50-52
- F. Result - vv. 53-54

