

John 4:1-15

Verses 1-6

- Jesus has been ministering to the people and many people are coming to Him while His baptizing them. Knowing the evil intention and jealousy in the heart of the Pharisees, He sets out toward Galilee.
- Jesus had just had a conversation with a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews. Now in complete contrast, Jesus will have a conversation with what would be considered by the Jew a low-class person: a female Samaritan who was sexually immoral.
- Samaria became the capital of the Northern kingdom by king Omri (1 Kings 16:24). Samaria would eventually be used to describe the entire region.
- The Jews hated the Samaritans as they considered them spiritual “half breeds.” The Assyrians conquered Israel in 722 B.C and led the majority of them into captivity. Some of the Israelite had been left in Samaria and began having relationships and children with those had come there that were not Jewish. This led to an intermixing of Judaism with pagan religions.
- The Samaritans believed only in the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Old Testament). As a result of only believing the first 5 books of the Bible, they believed the holy, chosen, and central place of worship to God was not in Jerusalem via Mount Zion, but rather on Mount Gerizim which is mentioned at various places including in Deuteronomy (the blessing by way of obedience to the covenant was given on the mountain).
- Jesus was weary and tired from His journey. This speaks to the hypostatic union and specifically to His human nature. Jesus met this lady at the 6th hour (noon). The women would typically come in groups and would draw the water late in the evening (Genesis 24:11) or early in the morning as to avoid the most intense heat of the day. The fact that this woman was coming to the well alone at noon could give us a clue of how much of an outcast she was to the community and how much shame she had.
- Jesus meets this Samaritan woman at a well that Jacob had given to his son Joseph roughly 2,000 years prior to this interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

Verses 7-9

- The fact that this woman is coming to draw water at noon is unusual as well as the fact that she is coming to the well alone which could speak to her status within the community. She could have been considered an outcast, a harlot, or someone to avoid at all costs. As an attempt to minimize her interaction with others, she came to draw water at peak of the sun's heat when no one else would typically be there.
- Jesus is alone with this woman since his disciples went into the city to buy food. One of the tasks that were performed by students of the rabbi was gathering food for the rabbi.
- Jesus' first words to this woman are “Give me a drink.”
- This woman recognizes that Jesus is a Jew and questions why he would be even talking to her let alone being asking for a drink. She knows that to the Jew a Samaritan woman is at the bottom of the totem pole in worth and status.
- Since the Jews considered the Samaritans were dirty low-class people, they enforced self-regulations to avoid food, drinks, utensils, and cups that were in contact with the Samaritans.

Verses 10-12

- Jesus tells her that the self-imposed regulations of the Jews to the Samaritans would be the last thing on her mind if she knew who she was talking to at that moment.
- If she knew who He was, she would have asked Him for a drink, but not of physical water which momentarily quenches thirst, but of living water for the soul which eternally satisfies.
- It is important to note that everyone who sincerely believes and asks Jesus for this living water will never be turned away, but will find a perfect Savior with everlasting, living water.

- **John 6:37** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.
- This well is 75 feet deep today (estimates would be that it was around 120 feet in Biblical times) and is still to this date producing clear refreshing water. This well has been providing water for over 4,000 years (roughly 2,000 years prior to the story in John 4 and roughly 2,000 since this story). The fact that this well has been providing water for over 4,000 is amazing but can't even compare with the living water of Christ which is eternal!
- The Holy Spirit draws all that are given by the Father to the Son and those who Christ has died for to ask and receive this living water.
 - **John 6:44** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
 - **Isaiah 55:1** "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no [a]money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.
- Yes, Jesus is greater than Jacob! Jacob's well supplies physical water, the water Jesus provides is spiritual living water that is eternal.

Verses 13-15

- This woman had continued to come to this well day after day for water. She endured the shame and guilt of her life, and it was probably the worst part of her day to come and gather water. She would do anything to not have to come and gather water. When Jesus tells her that the water He is talking about will result in her never being thirsty again she wants that water, but she still thinks he is talking physical water. She has been trying to have her thirst quenched, but it has and never will be quenched because she was not looking to the source of living water. People often look for people, accomplishments, and material things to satisfy their thirst, but those things will always leave a person thirsty and never quenched. Any other well a person goes to will leave them empty and thirsty. The only true peace and quenching of thirst is found in God.
- Living waters is also found in the Old Testament
 - **Jeremiah 2:13** "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.
- Jesus tells her that the water He gives will result in a thirst that is quenched and eternal life.
 - **John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "[a]If anyone is thirsty, [b]let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From [c]his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.
 - **Revelation 21:6** Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.
 - **Revelation 22:1** Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
- Wells and brides. There are many examples in the Old Testament where brides were found around a well.
 - Abraham's servant met Rebekah (Isaac's bride)- **Genesis 24:1-18**
 - Jacob meets Rachel- **Genesis 29:1-11**
 - Moses meets Zipporah- **Exodus 2:15-21**

All those who ask for a drink of living water are those who are drawn by God and will be raised up on the last day. The ones who drink of the living water are the bride of Christ.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

