

1Yr11 – No One Is Beyond God’s Grace John 4:1-42

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Open your Bibles. Title of the message is “No One Is Beyond God’s Grace.” Turn in your Bibles to John Chapter 4. We’re going to do, with some skipping, the first 42 verses.

We’re doing a 52 week survey on the life of Jesus. We are actually going through all four gospels, surveying all four gospels. When we left Jesus last he was with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was one of the highest ruling Pharisee’s in Jerusalem. And in that conversation Jesus explained to us famously that you must be born again; that you must be born again to see the Kingdom of God.

So at the end of John Chapter 3, especially if you’re in the ministry, you should study the last verses in John Chapter 3 about how John the Baptist handled the situation when Jesus began baptizing more disciples than him. And John the Baptist’s disciples came to him and complained. And the Pharisees jumped on that little issue and they tried to create strife. They tried to rile things up between John the Baptist and Jesus. And so look at your Bibles in John Chapter 4 verse 1.

John 4:1–3 (NLT)

1 Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John

2 (though Jesus himself didn’t baptize them—his disciples did).

3 So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

It would seem that this is the reason, wouldn’t it? The Pharisees were trying to stir up trouble, trying to create strife in this new Movement. And so the Pharisee’s jump in and it seems by that verse that’s why Jesus left. But if we read the next verse we get a hint at the bigger picture, the bigger reason Jesus left. John 4:4.

John 4:4 (NLT)

4 He had to go through Samaria on the way.

Jesus had to go through Samaria. Jesus had to go through Samaria on the way back to Galilee. Now, he didn’t have to go because that was the only route. In fact, there were three routes to Galilee, two of which would have taken Jesus around, by-passing Samaria. Jesus could have, but he did not, because Jesus *had to go* through Samaria. He *HAD* to. He had to go through Samaria. Why? He had to go through Samaria for the Samaritans, for the good of the Samaritans and he had to go to Samaria for our good. Jesus had to go to Samaria for our good. My prayer is that we would see how Jesus’ trip through Samaria applies to us personally, right where we are at today.

Let’s pray. *Heavenly Father please bring it, Lord. We can’t reason your Word out. We can’t logic it out. We don’t have the ability to understand it. It must be revealed to us divinely. And so we pray for a divine revelation. Lord, put us in the place in the scripture*

today, put us there. Allow us to see ourselves there. Allow us to hear the words of Jesus and allow us to respond by faith that is a gift from you. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

So here's the deal with Samaria. The Jews and the Samaritan's who lived in Samaria had kind of an issue. Here was their issue. They hated each other. HATED! Despised! Loathed! You see the Samaritans were a mixed race. They were half Jew and half gentile. And the Jews hated the gentiles enough. But they really hated the mixed race. The Samaritan's were half Jew and half, really, Assyrian. Here's how it happened. 700 years before Christ, the northern ten tribes of Israel were taken captive by Assyria. This was 120 years before the two southern tribes (called Judah) were taken into the famous Babylonian captivity. We have the Babylonian captivity recorded, and so we think about that as the captivity. But think about it, 120 years earlier the ten tribes in the north had been taken captive by the Assyrians.

Well here's what the Assyrians did whenever they conquered a land and took captives. They interspersed their captives among the Assyrian people. Why? So that they would inter marry. And if those captives inter married with the Assyrians they would become part of this Assyrian race and culture and would be much less likely to form a revolt against Assyria. Quite smart, if you think of it that way. And so when the ten tribes of the north were taken captive by Assyria and interspersed into the Assyrian community, what happened is they made little baby Samaritans. And so 700 years later, these little baby Samaritans had formed a people group called the Samaritans and had settled in Samaria. And because of that they were despised, and I mean purely hated by the Jews. What's worse is, when the temple was rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity, the ten tribes who were already inter mixed with the Assyrians kind of messed with Nehemiah and the team building the wall and the temple and so they were rejected. And so they went to their own place in Samaria, Mount Gerizim, and they built their own temple. Not cool. So there are half Jews, with a half temple in Samaria. And it just added to this racial prejudice and hate between the Jews and the Samaritans. And so much so, that it was common for a Jewish Pharisee to pray that God would never allow a Samaritan in the resurrection. They would just pray against the whole people, the whole race, that they would not be allowed into heaven.

But still, Jesus *had to go* to Samaria. He had to go to Samaria. Because Jesus had an appointment with a woman at a well. And Jesus had a lesson to teach his disciples and to teach us. And so we read in John 4:5

John 4:5 (NLT)

5 Eventually he (Jesus) came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

This area of Sychar is obviously still there today. It is in the heart of what we call the West Bank. The West Bank is still, 2,000 years later, an area of great conflict today, just

like it was in the time of Jesus. Great, great conflict. However along with Samaria being an area of great conflict, it was also a key foundational geographic area for the early days of the Jewish people of Israel in the Old Testament. In the early days Sychar was called Shechem. And if you've studied Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, you've read about Shechem. This is the same town that Jesus is now in.

Here's what's happened in Shechem. When Abraham first received his call in Genesis Chapter 12 to leave his home and go where God would show him, guess where Abraham first stopped in the Land of Canaan. Shechem. Right where Jesus is at. And on that place the Lord revealed himself to Abraham, showed up to Abraham. There, Abraham built the first altar in Canaan. There, Jacob (whose name was to be changed to Israel) also built an altar to the Lord, in this village. And he bought the land that we read about in verse 5, near the field that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. Jacob, of course, his name was change to Israel. This is also the place, Sychar which was Shechem in the Old Testament, is also the place where Moses brought the people in Deuteronomy, put half of them on Mount Gerizim and half of them on Mount Ebal and re-read the law to them. That occurred here in this village. And here Joshua brought the bones of Joseph, the famous Joseph from Genesis, and had them buried here in Shechem now in Jesus' time called Sychar. All this happened in and around this village Jesus had to go to.

With all that history, you would think there would be a little less hate between the people. This is a shared history between the Jews and the Samaritans. But it just increased the flame of the hatred between these two people groups. That hatred still exists today in the West Bank. The hate runs long and deep between the Jews and the Samaritans. But still, Jesus had to go there. Jesus *had* to go there.

Can I just tell you before we start the story, do you know that there has never been a force in the world equal to Christianity to destroy prejudice and hate and racial prejudice and just in-fighting between people? Never has there been any other movement or force in the history of the world that has done as much as Christianity to remove the divides between people. Colossians 3:11 says:

Colossians 3:11 says (NLT)

11 In this new life (in Christ), it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

We don't make distinctions in Christ. Christ has torn down those barriers like no other system of belief ever in the history of the world, period. It's funny that Christianity is the only religion that is not accepted or supported in our country now. Yet, Christianity is the only religion that has zero prejudice, zero racial discrimination, zero hate for anyone. Yet it's the only religion being silenced in our culture today. Interesting. I can't help but think about these things because it's radical.

But, the story today is not about socio-political changes in preparation for the end times. The point today is the interview that Jesus is about to have. Jesus is going to get tired. And he's going to need a drink of water.

John 4:6 says – (NLT)

6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

Jesus was tired. He was genuinely tired. He was hungry. He was tired. He had just walked forty miles from the River Jordan area near Jerusalem up to New Samaria, maybe a forty mile walk. And remember please, Jesus was one hundred percent God, but he was also one hundred percent man. And so he got a hundred percent tired just like you. A hundred percent weary, just like you. One hundred percent frustrated just like you, only yet, Hebrews says, without sin. But he felt what you feel. So you can never say, Jesus you don't understand. If you do, maybe he'll give you the hand and you can see the wound in his hand. And he would say, "You don't think I've experienced what you've experienced? Talk to the hand." Jesus has experienced everything you have experienced just without sin.

And so he is hungry, tired, weary and he sits by the well about noontime.

John 4:7 (NLT)

7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

Does that seem like a coincidence to you? That Jesus would walk forty miles on a trek that no other Jew would take. Other Jews would walk many miles on one side or the other to avoid Samaria. Listen, they didn't want to touch the dirt in Samaria with their sandals. And if they for some reason crossed over the line and touched Samaritan soil, they would knock the dirt off their sandals. They would never walk through there. Not only did Jesus walk straight into the heart of Samaria, but when he got there he sent his disciples away to go get some food. I wonder why he did that.

I can't help but think Jesus played this off a little bit. I know he was tired, I know he was hungry. But can you imagine him saying, "I'm just so tired. I just can't go on. You guys go ahead. Go get some food. I'm going to sit here by the well, you guys go."

You know why? Because they were still young in following Jesus. They would have messed up this interview, this interaction with the woman at the well, so badly. Can you imagine Peter, he would have just messed the whole thing up. So Jesus says, "Look you guys take a break. Just go over there." He doesn't tell them. He just kind of manages them. Good leadership lesson there.

Verse 7 says a despised Samaritan woman came to draw water in the middle of the day. Notice in verse 6 it says Jesus sat beside the well at noon time. Listen, women didn't come to the well in the middle of the day. They came early in the morning or they came late in the evening. They didn't come in the middle of the day; it's too hot to come in the middle of the day. Why was this Samaritan woman at the well in the middle of the day? Probably because she was shamed in her own culture. So she is from a despised culture, and she is despised within a despised culture. She's in a culture that is hated and she lives with so much shame in a culture that is hated by the Jews that she can't even face the women of the community at the well during the normal times that they go to the well. Jesus is about to have an interaction with a woman who is carrying so many burdens, so much shame, so hated, so disrespected, so despised that she represents all of us. Every one of us.

So when this shamed and despised Samaritan woman comes to the well in the middle of the day verse 7 says Jesus says *"Please give me a drink."*

John 4:9 (NLT)

9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Look, there is some definite attitude in this woman's voice. This was a hardened, shamed, disrespected, despised woman of Samaria. And she's talking to Jesus with some attitude. "Who do you think you are? I'm a Samaritan woman and you're a Jewish man."

She makes letter "Z" in the air. "Zip. What are you talking to me for?"

And if once you know her reputation you might say that she was saying to Jesus, "What do you really want. What are you actually asking me for? Because a Jew would never ask me for a drink of water, they wouldn't touch anything that a Samaritan has touched. Why are you talking to me?"

And we read a really, really important response. In verse 10 of John 4, and it's one of the key verses today.

John 4:10 (NLT)

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

Without any response to the attitude he surely got from this woman, with tremendous unending grace, Jesus says, "If you only knew, if you only knew the gift that God has for you. If you only knew who was talking to you, you would ask. You would just ask and I would freely give you living water. I would freely give you living water."

And I would say to you today, if you only knew. If you only knew who was trying to speak to you, who was trying to talk to you, you would ask him and he would give you freely living water. Sadly, we are more like the woman at the well than we might like to admit. And far too often we are thinking only in the physical realm. Far too often our minds can't get past the temporal need. So often our minds can't get past the water of this world that we think we thirst so much for. Too often we are bound by our own prejudices, which she would have against the Jews, or bound by our own cultural thoughts and directives that she would have been bound by. That's where this woman was. And she spoke with an attitude. She was a hardened outcast. And she spoke like a hardened outcast. And she responds in verse 11 with even more attitude.

John 4:11 (NLT)

11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this (so-called) living water?"

12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? (who do you think you are?) How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Have you ever met someone like this? Maybe just a little touch of attitude? Listen, the grace of God knows no end. It has no boundaries. It's an unending grace flood. And I would say to you today even if you reject the never ending grace of God and choose to spend eternity in hell separated from God; it doesn't mean that God's grace ended. It means that you rejected it until you could not receive it anymore. God's grace doesn't end.

And though we would get fed up quickly with a person like this, Jesus is looking at her heart. Jesus is listening to her heart. He's not even listening to this hardened attitude coming out of her mouth. This woman is only thinking about physical, temporal water of this world and she is thinking about it through her filters of prejudice and hate. And her cultural thoughts and beliefs. And Jesus is trying so hard to lead her to living water. It's hard to say at this point whether when he leads her there whether she'll drink or not? You've heard the phrase "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." Well, right now this woman is acting more like a donkey than a horse. But Jesus is still going to lead her to the water. He is still going to lead her to the living water. Listen, Jesus is not going to give up on this hardened, disrespected, shame-filled, despised woman. And if he's not going to give up on her, he's not going to give up on you. And so no matter how hard you think you are, no matter how many mistakes you've made, no matter what your past is, Jesus is still there trying to lead you to the living water. He is pouring out his grace on you. He is trying to get you to receive it. If you haven't figured it out yet, we are the woman at the well. The woman's attitude is so aggressive and bitter and disrespectful and Jesus replied in John 4:13:

John 4:13-14 (NLT)

13 Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again.

14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

Finally you think Jesus lays it out. Finally you think, okay, now she is going to get it. *Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again.* Do you know really, I mean honestly, because we struggle as Christians just like non-Christians. Do you really know that the waters of this world will never satisfy? Do you really know that the waters of this world will never satisfy your thirst, will never fulfill you? It’s because, listen, we are prone to chase after the waters of this world just like every non-believer. Until we really come to grips with the fact that chasing after the waters of this world doesn’t satisfy, it destroys. I don’t care if you drink the waters of this world through a fire hose, you’re going to end up thirsty again. And that’s what Jesus is saying to this woman. The water of this world is going to leave you thirsty again, and again, and again.

Have you ever experienced that? A little bit? Like you thought, okay, this is what I need. This thing in this world will satisfy. This will do it. This will make me happy. This will satisfy my thirst. And if you get it you go, “Huh. Well that didn’t work. Maybe I need more. Maybe I need something else.”

And you end up thirsty and thirsty and thirsty. We understand the woman at the well because we are her. Although drinking the waters of this world is what has destroyed this woman’s life, she still asks for an unlimited supply of it. Have we done that? “Yeah. I know that when I got that, it wasn’t good for me, but I want more. I want more of that which is destroying my life in this world. I want to drink in more of the waters of this world.”

And so John 4 verse 15 the woman says:

John 4:15 (NLT)

15 “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Is she talking about the eternal life water, the living water, or is she talking about the waters of the world. The waters of the world. “Yeah, yeah. You’ll give me everything I wanted?”

It’s like watching those churches on TV that tell you God will give you everything you want. Don’t do it. Don’t watch them. Don’t, because they’re messing up your mind. You get everything in this world you lose your soul. And there’s a second you’ll open your eyes and say, “I’m not breathing.” And you’re going to be like, “Huh, that everything in the world thing didn’t last very long.”

Dear unnamed woman at the well – You are not getting it! You’re not getting it. You’re a little thick, you’re a little blinded. The water of this world that you’ve been chasing your whole life has blinded you to the living water that Jesus is offering. Jesus is offering you more but you can’t see it because you’re so focused on the waters of this world. Guys, what this woman needs is a wake-up call. She needs a wake-up call to stop being so consumed with the waters of this world. And guess what? Jesus loves her so much, and has so much grace towards her, that he is going to provide the wake-up call that she needs. Isn’t God good to do that? See, we call that “hitting bottom” around here. We say, “Oh, praise the Lord.” If we’ve been trying to help somebody get off the street, or whatever is destroying their life, if they end up in jail, we always say “Oh, praise the Lord! That is so great!” Because now they have an opportunity to get sober long enough to say “Hey, this isn’t such a great life. Jesus is offering me more.”

Often people call me and say, “Well, should I get this person out of jail?” And I’ll say tell me a little about it. And often I will say, “Why don’t you give them a couple of days. Give them a Bible. And help them have a place that they can refocus their lives.” I’m not saying go out and get put in jail on purpose, but it can be good for you.

So this woman needs a wake-up call, so here it is, John 4:16.

John 4:16-18 (NLT)

16 “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

17 “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband - → →

18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

Drinking the waters of this world hasn’t been that good to you, has it? Five husbands and a live in boyfriend now, hasn’t really worked out that great for you, has it? Finally this woman’s reputation is brought to the surface by Jesus. Because Hebrews 4:13 says ***all of creation is naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*** God knows it all. And if you will allow him to, he will lay you open on the altar for your good. And so he says, “You’ve had five husbands.”

Listen, being divorced today still has a little bit of a stigma. I mean, less and less, and I’m not saying the stigma is good. I want you to be healed if you’ve been through a divorce. I want you to allow God to heal you. But if you think in our modern, humanistic culture that divorce has a stigma now, in 30 A.D. in the first century, it had a radical stigma! I mean radical. And it was always the woman who took the brunt of disrespect of divorce. Here’s why. A woman couldn’t divorce a man. Only a man could divorce a woman. Write her a little certificate, send her away. They were supposed to have good reason to do that, supposedly, supposed to have a genuine reason to do that. One of which was infidelity. I get a feeling that was this woman. It takes a while to rack up five divorces. I

don't want a show of hands, but if you've been divorced five times, you come to me, because I want to pray for you. That's a lot of divorce. Five husbands have said "you are out of here" and have sent this woman packing. Five.

So she moves in with a guy. Do you realize what that was culturally to be living with a man you're not married to? The only thing worse than being divorced five times is to be living openly with a man that you're not married to. This woman was the shamed and despised of the shamed and despised. She carried so many burdens, so much guilt for her choices in life that she was barely walking at noon to the well so that she wouldn't have to meet any other woman. She held a record in the land of Israel for being thrown out by men. It's safe to say that Jesus left his conversation with religious elite in Jerusalem and walked forty miles to Samaria to see at this exact well, at this exact day, because he was drawing this exact woman to him to show us one thing.

His grace is unfathomable. His grace is unending. His grace knows no end. His mercy is new every morning. There is no place that you and I can get ourselves that Jesus still doesn't offer us the living water. If this woman is so loved by Christ that he made all of this effort to get to her and to offer her this, then surely he would do it for us.

The point is this, if Jesus loved this woman enough to chase her down, he certainly loves you enough to chase you down. And if this woman in her disrespect of Jesus didn't turn him from her, certainly your disrespect isn't turning him from you. Jesus loved this woman like he loves us. And there's nothing that we can do to separate ourselves from his love. Nothing. He will love you, even if you choose to reject him and choose the consequences eternally for that choice, for that rejection, Jesus will still have loved you with an unending love.

No matter how you feel about yourself today, please hear me. No matter how rejected you feel, no matter how shamed you feel, no matter how despised you feel, no matter how you feel people think about you, you do not feel as shamed and despised and disrespected and rejected as this woman. That's why this interview is in the Bible. To say to you, if Jesus would do this for the woman at the well, he'll certainly do it for you. That's a big lesson.

I can't tell you how many times; I think the first one who ever said that to me was my uncle. Danni and I went and met my uncle as he was dying. And the family was abusive to us. Chiding us. Belittling us for wanting to talk to him about the Lord. And God in his mercy took them outside the room. And Danni had to make the sacrifice to go out there and take their abuse. And I sat with my uncle and I said "You need Jesus, you're going to die."

And he said, "I can't. I've done too much wrong. I can't, God would never accept me."

I could have turned to this passage but I turned to the thief on the cross and read him that passage, and he said, “Really?”

I said “Yeah, Rusty, really.”

And he said, “Well, if God will accept me then I’ll accept him. I want him.”

And I prayed with my uncle and he died within hours, less than two days later. No one is beyond the reach of the grace of God. No one.

Here’s the deal. In every true salvation, there has to be a conviction of sin. That’s what my uncle was feeling, conviction of sin. That’s what this woman is feeling right now. There has to be a recognition that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. That the wages of sin is death. I don’t deserve living water, I don’t deserve to live forever, I don’t deserve God’s grace. So if he’s offering it to me freely I’ll receive it. But the first step is to recognize that you deserve judgment. That’s where this woman is coming to. The conviction of sin is bringing her around, but she is bewildered and she is confused, so the best she can come up with is in verse 19.

John 4:19 (NLT)

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet.

Right now, listen, listen to me please. Right now she has a chance to fall on her face in repentance. Right at this moment she can fall in the dirt and say “God forgive me! I’m a sinner. I deserve your judgment, please forgive me.”

She could, but like us, she didn’t. Unfortunately she used her ability, her learned skills of getting out of uncomfortable discussions. And when you’re living with this much shame and this rejected and despised you get good at doing the blue suede shoe two-step double talk. And so she gathers her thoughts and she remembers her ability to double talk. And she chooses the classic deflection approach. It’s one she had learned a long time ago.

John 4:20 (NLT)

20 So tell me (since apparently you are a prophet), why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”

Okay, rule number one, if you want to make sure that you never have to be honest with others or yourself, anytime the conversation gets a little too personal, deflect it to something else that you think that person might be interested in. So this woman throws up deflection like a pro. Deflect this conversation to get it away from me and the truth. But guess what? She didn’t know who she was dealing with yet, but she was about to.

John 4:21-22 (NLT)

21 Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews.

Now you might wonder why Jesus said that. Because it was true. Let me just tell you right now, Jesus is saying “Your Samaritan religion is wrong.”

The Samaritans had taken the Jewish religion and mixed pagan religions with it and Jesus says, “Listen. I’ve just go to tell you, your religion is wrong. What you’re teaching is wrong. You don’t know salvation. You don’t know God.”

See there’s a thing in our culture of acceptance, that all religions are good. All religions are good. But Jesus says to this woman, “First I’ve got to tell you, your religion is all messed up. You don’t even know. Salvation comes from the Jews.”

But verse 21 is actually the focus. Jesus says ***the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.***

Jesus continues in John 4:23-24.

John 4:23-24 (NLT)

23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

What an incredible statement, to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. We desire so much to be a worshiping church. Here’s why. The Father is looking for those who will worship him in spirit and in truth. Don’t you want to be that? That’s who the father is looking for. He’s searching for you. If you’re worshiping him in spirit and in truth. That’s some pretty good motivation. Verse 24 tells you why, ***for God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*** If you are reading an old literal version, the KJV especially says, “a” there, not appropriate. It needs to not be there. It’s not “a Spirit.” He *IS* Spirit. He exists as Spirit. It’s who he is. God is Spirit. So those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. What an incredible statement, I need to spend all day on it!

Our point is to put ourselves in the shoes of the woman. And so I can’t talk too much about what this means, to worship in spirit and in truth. But let me just say, quickly, again. ***for God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*** When he says “in spirit” he is referring to *your* spirit. I personally love the NIV translation, it says “the Spirit” but most of the literals say “spirit” meaning your spirit. But here’s the point. It’s your spirit lit alive by the Holy Spirit. It’s your spirit being connected to God by the Holy Spirit. It comes through your identification with Christ that makes you the temple of the Holy Spirit. Paul says in Corinthians that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So your identification with Christ makes you holy, makes you

the temple of the Holy Spirit, and Romans 8 says The Holy Spirit knows what your spirit is saying and feeling and knows the mind of God and connects the two. And Romans 8:26 say the spirit prays for you because you don't know how to pray. The Spirit worships for you because you don't know how to worship. You have to worship God, not physically, but spiritually. *Not physically, spiritually.*

The Jews had the physical worship down. "Oh yeah, we stand up and then we sit down. And then we walk over here. And then we eat this. And we say this. And we read this."

And Jesus is saying, "Listen, listen. That was okay when you didn't have the Holy Spirit. That was okay as a sign, as a picture, as a type of true worship. But now after the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit, that's done with. It's done with. Jewish religious rituals, Samaritan religious ritual, any religious ritual in our culture today of which there is plenty, it's done. God wants you connected in the Spirit. Worship in the Spirit. It's not about where your body is, it's not about what your body is doing, it's about is your spirit connecting to God? Are you interacting and interrelating with the almighty God who is Spirit."

And then truth. Worship in truth. Listen can I tell you something? If your life is actively by choice immersed in sin, you might want to deal with that before you start worshiping God. I'm not saying don't worship. I'm saying deal with the sin. Because God wants a worshiper in spirit and in truth. And most probably the word "truth" means "*true, genuine worship, not going through the motions, not pretending, not being a hypocrite.*" Genuinely worshiping God. And according to his Word.

Finally the woman at the well is fully engaged. She finally is getting it. Thank you, Jesus. Because if she can get it, you can get it. So she's getting it, and she is ready to have a conversation with Jesus. And as soon as she is ready, she gets the bombshell of her life.

John 4:25-26 (NLT)

25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Messiah!"

That phrase goes back into the Hebrew to when Moses stood at the burning bush on Mount Sinai and Moses says, "But God, who should I say sent me?"

And God says "Tell them I AM!"

I AM. It means "*the all existing one, the eternal one.*" Jesus says "I am the Messiah."

And at this moment the woman at the well is where Jesus needs her to be. She is awestruck. Finally. Get awestruck! My guess is she is finally quiet. And her mouth is hanging open, because she believes. Because Jesus says "I am. I am the Messiah."

And so she is standing there quiet, maybe the first time in a long time, and her jaw is hanging open, and look at John 4:27.

John 4:27 (NLT)

27 Just then (perfect timing) his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?”

We could have some real fun with that verse, but our point is to put ourselves today, in the woman’s shoes.

John 4:28-30 (NLT)

28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone,

29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?”

30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

She dropped what she was doing; she dropped her desire for the waters of the world. Listen, this woman was so shamed and so disrespected she wouldn’t show her face to the other women at the well and now that she has met Jesus Christ she is running through town as the number one evangelist for Jesus in Samaria. Do you see the change? Do you see the change in this woman? She was shamed out of the community, and now she is like, “You’ve got to know. Jesus. I’ve met Jesus! I’ve met Jesus! I’ve met Jesus!”

And she is running through the town. Listen that is evidence, fruit of faith. It’s the fruit of faith. We’re going to skip down to verse 39 for time. If you are already saved, you study verses 31-38. They are important. John 4:39 for time’s sake:

John 4:39-42 (NLT)

39 Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!”

40 When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days,

41 long enough for many more to hear his message and believe.

42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Listen, very seldom did Jesus just sit with people for two days. But he went into the most hated, despised, rejected, prejudiced people in the land. And he sat with them for two days!

What a transformation of God's grace in the most despised and rejected place. What a transformation of God's grace. A rejected, shame filled, despised woman, hated in her own culture and hated by the Jews is chosen by Christ to be his number one evangelist to the people of Samaria. She became the number one evangelist in town until Philip came up. I wish we could talk about Philip in Acts Chapter 8. Philip comes in and continues her work! But there is a great revival in Samaria. Why? Because this woman started it!

And listen, here's the last thing. She received this living water. And it came gushing forth from her life. That's what you see if you study Acts Chapter 8. But, she still had to go to the well. But now she knew, the well was just to get by for the day, but Christ was the living water.

John Chapter 7, later, Jesus stands up in the temple and shouts to the crowds:

John 7:37-39 (NLT)

37 . . . "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!

38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' "

39 (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him . . .)

What else can we ask of Jesus? Jesus came to give you eternal life, living water bursting forth from your innermost being. To anyone who would believe. To anyone who would put their full faith and trust in him. From the highest religious leader to the lowest, rejected outcasts. He loves them both equally. And he loves you equally. And he offers you living water, simply by you putting your faith in him.

Salvation has no borders, no boundaries. It's not chained, it's not bound, it's not tethered. It's not blocked from any person. It is available to whosoever believes. No matter what you've done, no matter what other people think about you, no matter how you feel about yourself. Jesus says, "Come. All who are thirsty. Come. Come to the water. Come by and drink."

Let's pray Lord the waters of this world leave us thirsty. The waters of this world will never satisfy, but we recognize right now that you offer living water. That you offer us, Lord, the life source that is without comparison. A life source that is beyond this temporal, fleeting, soon to vaporize world. A life source that is eternal in glory with you, that is indescribable, that rises up in us and bursts out of us like a river of living water. That's what you offer. You offer it freely; you offer it for the receiving, to all who will believe.

If that's you right now, hear me when I say, believe. Believe. Believe. Believe. Quit debating with Jesus. Quit arguing. Quit having an attitude with him. And quit seeking the

waters of this world and say *“Jesus, I finally give up. I have nothing to say, I’m in awe. I believe. I need the living water that you offer. I need it today.”*

And if that’s you, if that’s you – I want you to pray right now, this prayer, right where you’re at. *“Lord Jesus, I believe. Lord Jesus, I believe. I believe you are who you say you are. And I believe you’ll give me what you’ve offered. I recognize my sin and I know that my sin will lead to death. I pray you would forgive me of my sin and that you would fill me with this living water. Fill me with your living water, Lord, today. Wash away my sin and give me new life. Give me eternal life. Give me life springing up, Lord. Please come into my life and save me today. It’s in your own name I pray, amen.”*