

Portraits of Jesus in John 4

In John 4, Jesus is presented through several profound "portraits" that reveal His divine nature, His mission to the lost, and His fulfillment of Old Testament promises.

1. Jesus is The Wearied Savior: Fully HUMAN & Fully DIVINE. (1-9)

1 Therefore when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), 3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 And **He had to** pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of **Samaria** called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So **Jesus, being wearied** from His journey, was sitting thus by the well.

6th hour...
Romans (6am)
Jews (noon)

It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9

Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How do You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, being a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

- **Jesus is fully human**, feeling exhaustion, yet **fully divine**, having sovereignly orchestrated this encounter ("He had to pass through"). He crosses racial, gender, and religious lines (Jew to Samaritan woman) to initiate grace.
- **Puritan Quote:** "Christ's being weary shows He was a true man... He took our infirmities, that He might take away our sins." – Thomas Watson

2. Jesus is The LIVING WATER: Life-Giving SUSTAINER (10-15)

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you **knew the gift of God**, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, **and He would have given you living water.**" 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; **14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst—ever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**" 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, **give me this water**, so I will not be thirsty nor come back here to draw."

- Jesus is the source of eternal satisfaction. He identifies the "thirst" of the soul that earthly relationships & phys. water cannot quench.
- **Isaiah 55:1** – "'Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.'" (Isaiah 55:1, LSB)
- **Puritan Quote:** "There is enough in Christ to fill the soul's capacity. All the world is but a drop of a bucket compared to the ocean of His fullness." – **Thomas Brooks**

Hypostatic Union ... Jesus Christ is one person with two distinct natures: he is simultaneously fully God and fully human. The term "hypostasis" comes from the Greek word *hupostasis*, which in this context means "person" or "subsistence". This union is defined by **4 key negatives** established at the **Council of Chalcedon** in 451 AD to preserve the mystery without over-explaining it.

Without Confusion: The two natures do not mix to create a "third thing" that is neither fully divine nor fully human.

Without Change: The divine nature did not change into a human nature, nor did the human nature become divine.

Without Division: Jesus is not two separate persons living in one body; he is one unified individual.

Without Separation: The union is permanent and organic, not just a temporary partnership.

CONNECTED IMAGERY... **RETURN TO THE FOUNTAIN!** (Jeremiah 2)

"For My people have done two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

There is something deeply searching about this verse. God exposes a tragic exchange. His people had turned away from a flowing, life-giving fountain and settled for cracked containers that could never satisfy. The same temptation confronts us today.

1. GOD ALONE IS THE FOUNTAIN THAT TRULY SATISFIES

God describes Himself as *"the fountain of living waters"* – a continual, overflowing source of life, joy, and refreshment. Unlike stagnant water, His supply never runs dry.

"but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst—ever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

"For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light." (Psalm 36:9, LSB)

We were created to draw life from God Himself. Every longing of the soul – peace, purpose, love, security – finds its true fulfillment in Him. When we stay near the Fountain, our souls are nourished, strengthened, and renewed.

2. MAN-MADE "CISTERNS" ALWAYS DISAPPOINT

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again

In Jeremiah, Israel's sin involved replacing God with something woefully inferior – something idolatrous. They carved out "cisterns," human substitutes to provide what only God can provide. Yet these cisterns were broken.

Our Cisterns might look like success, possessions, relationships, entertainment, or even religious activity apart from genuine devotion. These things promise satisfaction but cannot deliver lasting fulfillment. They **leak**. They **fail**. They **leave us empty**.

3. GOD GRACIOUSLY CALLS US BACK TO HIMSELF

Even in the rebuke in Jeremiah 2:13, we hear the heart of a loving God calling His people to return. He does not abandon us when we wander – He invites us back to the only source that can truly satisfy.

"Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost." (Isaiah 55:1, LSB)

"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37-38, LSB)

No matter how many broken cisterns we've pursued, the Fountain is still flowing. God's grace beckons us to turn away from empty substitutes and come back to Him. In Christ, that living water is freely given. But you and you alone must make the choice to "come" to Christ to "drink" of these living waters. Christ will not force you to come.

Psalm 1 (LSB)

¹ How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not rise in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For Yahweh knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: A GENTLE CHALLENGE

Drawing from the "Portraits of Jesus in John 4" and the imagery of Jeremiah 2, here are practical application points and discussion questions for personal reflection or group study.

- **CHECK Your "Cisterns"**: Identify things in your life—such as **materialism, relationships, or career success**—that you may be treating as "cisterns". These often promise lasting satisfaction but "leak" and leave you empty during times of stress.
- **Embrace "Routine" DIVINE Appointments**: Recognize that Jesus often meets people during **ordinary, routine tasks** like drawing water or commuting. Be alert to opportunities for spiritual conversations in your daily environment.
- **Share Your "COME AND SEE" Story**: You don't need a theology degree to be an evangelist; the Samaritan woman simply shared what Jesus did for her. Practice telling your own story by focusing on **invitation rather than argument**.