

Exposition of John

Message #15

John 4:1-15

What appears to satisfy us in life doesn't. Whether it's fun, money, pleasure, power, laughter, friends, a spouse, children, a job.. The things that appear to satisfy a person don't.

I believe John is communicating through writing this account of the life of Jesus that:

JESUS WILL ETERNALLY SATISFY THE SOUL OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT.

As we walk through these verses, I want to make observations about Jesus. These are four observations about Jesus' large ministering heart.

Observation #1 - Jesus, during His earthly ministry, was constantly focused on completing His mission to carry out the plan of God. **4:1-3**

Jesus was not interested in any more religious debate with the Pharisees, because He knew His mission, and He was razor sharp focused on carrying out the will of God. He leaves the region where He was being rejected, and He goes back to Galilee where people were accepting Him.

This would avoid conflict with the Pharisees. This would also avoid the idea that Jesus was trying to compete with John the Baptist.

John the apostle mentions in verse 2 that Jesus was not actually the one baptizing. His disciples were. I think it's pretty obvious why He wasn't baptizing. Just think of the attitude of the people if they were baptized in water by Jesus Himself.

Observation #2 - Jesus' stop in Samaria demonstrates His deity and His humanity. **4:4-6**

Now you might say, "Charlie, I am not sure I picked up on the fact that Jesus is the God-man in those verses. All I see are basic facts about his travels."

John writes Jesus "had to pass through Samaria." Here's the problem. Samaria was not the only possible route to Galilee. Jesus could have traveled around Samaria. Jesus had three options for travel, but evidentially, in His mind, He had only one option. Why? Because His mind is the mind of God. He knew where He needed to be at what time so that He could encounter a Samaritan woman that was in need of God's salvation. Jesus had to go through Samaria because He knows only what God knows. He possesses attributes of deity.

What we also see is that Jesus was truly a man. He was wearied. He was tired. He had been traveling in the sun. He had to rest. He needed to sit down. He was worn out.

Observation #3 - Jesus, although tired, always looked for an opportunity to share God's good news to others. **4:7-12**

The Jews and Samaritans didn't get along. The Jews considered themselves true breed Israelites who had not defiled themselves by intermarrying with foreigners. The Jews considered Samaritans half breed heretics. The Samaritans had intermarried Israelites and foreigners. This brought about a mixed religion. The Jews despised the Samaritans for adopting a culture of foreign deities.

It would have been proper in the mind of a Jewish rabbi to not even step foot in Samaria, much less talk to a woman of Samaria. Jesus didn't care what was proper to the Jewish culture. He cared about what was proper to God.

He initiated the conversation. He was tired. He was hungry. He was thirsty, but He never let those factors be an excuse for Him. He pressed on, and He strikes up a conversation with a women who needed to hear a Word from God.

Jesus says that He is no ordinary Jewish man who wants to discriminate. If she had only known that God's gracious gift extended to her, and if she only knew who He was she would've asked him for water and His water would be living water.

That is a strange response. I'm sure it peaked her curiosity.

Observation #4 - Jesus did what He did and said what He said because He knew man's innermost need. **4:13-15**

Man's innermost need is the need to be made alive by God. Until a person is brought to life spiritually, until a person has been given eternal life, there will never be true peace within that person.

When we talk about the gift of God, we have to realize God's gift offer encompasses a lot. God the Father has given the world the gift of His Son (John 3:16). Jesus Christ, the Son, offers the gift of eternal life to those who believe in Him (John 10:28). God the Father and Christ the Son give the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who believe in Jesus the very moment they believe (John 16:7; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 4:6). I think if we could pinpoint just exactly what Jesus is referring to it would be Him giving the Holy Spirit. You can receive that gift. You can be permanently in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit, be given eternal life, be eternally secure in the hand of the Father, be declared by the Father to have the righteousness of the Son and so much more if you would receive the gift through faith that Jesus died on cross in your place, for your sins, instead of you, offering himself as a sacrifice on your behalf and rose again. If you believe in Him, you'll be given God's Spirit and will have eternal life.

And what will eternal life look like? It will look like having a never ending stream of living water at your disposal at all times. Jesus will refer to the Holy Spirit as living water in chapter 7. "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Jesus said the woman "He who drinks of this water will never be thirsty again." You will be eternally satisfied. Why? Because you will have finally found peace with God through simple childlike faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will have God's Spirit in you, you will experience the full joy of God's forgiveness, and so much more.