

## “Living Water” • John 4:1–30

Mt. Lassen Community Church • January 18, 2026

**Discuss** • When it comes to speaking of “pre–Jesus” past, we can either “keep it under the blood” and let it be forgotten, or we can share it as a testimony of God’s powerful Gospel. Which is you?

### 4:1–8 • BACKGROUND

**Vs 7–9** • Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman. This is shocking on several level → Man—Woman | Jew—Samaritan | Rabbi—Sinner

**Vs 10–12** • Jesus moves the conversation from the physical (vs 7) to spiritual. Instead of water from the well, He speaks of LIVING WATER.

**Vs 13–15** • Jesus offers water that brings eternal life (John 7:37–38)

**Vs 16–19** • Bombshell! Jesus *knows* her. He knows her *immorality*. Yet, this holy man, a Jewish Rabbi, is still speaking with her. He isn’t shaming her or casting her aside. But, she dodges...

**Vs 20** • She changes subject: *Where is the right place to worship?* Jesus steers the conversation back to the *important* things...

**Vs 21–24** • “God is looking for worshipers”—a subtle offer: *Would you like to be a true & spiritual worshiper of God?*

**Vs 25** • The woman is a bit lost, but she knows a Messiah is coming...

**Vs 26** • Jesus claims: *I who speak to you am He.*

### —JESUS’ STYLE OF EVANGELISM—

- **Create intentional conversations**

Don’t wait for a random opportunity • Be proactive

- **Find common ground** • Don’t come in “hot”

Tip: Ask for help (“Give me a drink”) • Or: “Tell me your story”

- **Move toward spiritual things** • ...from the known to the unknown

Tip: *We just came from church—and we believe God answers prayer. Can we pray for you?*

- **“Salt the Oats”** • help them desire to hear more

- **Don’t be reactive or judgmental** • only new life will transform them

- **Gently steer back toward Jesus** when they change the subject

- **Speak the truth in love!**

- **Pray the Holy Spirit gives you the rights words** to get to their heart (Jesus divinely spoke of her past).

- Even if you can’t share the whole message: ***Plant the seed!*** (1 Cor. 3:7)

**Vs 27** • The Gospel is meant to cross cultural and social boundaries, so look for your “Samaritan woman” to share with.

**Vs 28–30** • The woman becomes the FIRST EVANGELIST: *to the Samaritans*. BIG TAKEAWAY → Her SINFUL PAST becomes the catalyst to introduce people to JESUS! What used to separate her from people now unites her with them. And *together* they find life in the forgiveness of God and the transformational work of the Gospel.

So, *what is your testimony? And how might God use it to change lives?*

Closing: an “unpreached” sermon → “The Disciples in Sychar”

They missed an opportunity: the people were ripe for the Gospel! *Let us be the Samaritan woman and not the disciples, who missed their chance!*