

# **John's Gospel @ CF!**

## **John 4:1-42 – Part 3**

### **Sermon notes – BK**

June 1, 2024

**GOOD MORNING!**

**WELCOME to all you visiting here and online...**

**Thank you to Tom (as always) - For giving me a bit of a breather for a couple of Sundays...**

- **Sandi and I celebrated our 34-Year anniversary** a couple of weeks ago – and had a few days to do some yard work... only to be rained out till the last day! **WELCOME TO WA!**

**Well... as you may have guessed we are BACK in John!**

- **Back into the story we left off in.**
- **Jesus, and the woman at the well...**

**Jacob's well to be exact –**

- One of the **few specific physical places** we have **identified that is almost irrefutable!**
- We have **shown these pictures for the last two messages**, thought we would **put them up once more** for consistency's sake!
  - o These two pictures are of **Jacob's well** where this conversation took place
  - o ***Only... back then, there was not a Greek Orthodox church built around it!***



○  
As you may have guessed (or already know), Jesus broke all kinds of rules having THIS CONVERSATION with this woman...

### FIRST

- A man talking with a woman in a public place was forbidden
- A Jew talking with a Samaritan was NOT ok
- A Jewish rabbi talking with a Samaritan woman... WOW... this was WAY out of bounds!

Then on a deeper level...

- Jesus, (a Jewish Rabbi) asking an “unclean Samaritan woman” for a drink, from HER vessel...
  - She was *unclean*
  - The vessel was unclean
  - Drinking this would have been UNTHINKABLE

Can you see just how unusual and very unusual... even Scandalous this conversation must have been?

BUT Jesus was doing what His Father is told Him to do...

### What does this tell us about God?

- God sees
- God knows what we need
- God is not limited by our constraints
- God does not play by our rules

- God will send His people to places where people need His love...

***<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”***

This “*gift of God*” Jesus speaks of is salvation –

*(John 3:16, Romans 3:23-24, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 2:38-39...)*

A gift...

- She **desperately wanted**
- She **absolutely needed**
- She would **never have felt worthy of...**

This “*Gift of God*” is a BIG DEAL... to ALL of us!

It is easy to forget in our day and age, just HOW BIG of a deal this is.

**As the conversation continues** (see previous messages for more deets)...

- **Jesus makes it clear He knows about her**
- **She recognizes she is with a prophet (and will see a whole lot more than that)**
- **She wants to get an age-old debate resolved...**
  - **Where is the place of worship?**
  - **Where is the mercy seat?**
  - **Where can she go, to be right with God for real?**

Remember, the Samaritan only believed that the Torah was authoritative

- They **did not know** of God's redemptive plan
- Their **faith** was in an **incomplete "Gospel..." of sorts...**

**Why** did **Jesus** go through all this and uncover her past?

I believe **Jesus** was getting to the **root** of **Her identity.**

- o He was **about to restore something** I think she believed was **long-lost... forever**
- o **GIVING Her and IDENTITY as a child of GOD** - - -
  - **NOT** in just "having a place" in her society
  - **Not in only** being a wife...

This woman asks **Jesus** the **right question** of the **perfect person**, but will get a totally different answer than she expects...

She is **looking for an either-or answer...**

- o **Either Gerizim** (of her people)
- o **OR Jerusalem** (since he IS Jewish of course!)

So... **What is it? NEITHER!**

At lease... **not from NOW-ON!**

**What Jesus came to give is Living Water to bring us TO the God of mercy... FOREVER!**

- **NOT** because of a location, or a religious heritage
- **Something far better!**

***23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”***

***“...for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”***

**THIS is the kind of worshipper the Father is SEEKING!**

**Seeking (meaning) – To “Seek in order to find...”**

**This woman knew Messiah would make all this clear...**

**- Jesus removed all doubt!**

***26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”***

***THIS is kinda where we left it all off....***

**SO... Let's pick it back up in John 4:27...**

**John 4:27-45**

***27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 33 So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” 34 Jesus said to***

them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

The dynamic at play here is surreal for the disciples – So much so, John wrote, “*...they marveled the he was talking with a woman...*”

- They understand what is required of them as Jews and as a Jewish man...
- This is more than breaking “social etiquette” – this could be considered scandalous... BUT THIS IS JESUS!

After His disciples arrive – the woman takes off in such a hurry, she leaves her water jar (not sure it is much more than that)

Maybe

- She knows she will not be gone for long
- She has people to tell!
- She has people to see the one who *just might be “the Christ.”*

The disciples went to get food – now they try to get Jesus to eat something...

**Jesus was not hungry... His heart was too full.**

- Has that ever happened to you?
- You get so enthralled in something that you cannot even remember the last time you ate?

THEN Jesus teaches something that hit me in a new way as I was preparing this message...

**Jesus teaches us something about the process of how He sees things...**

- We mostly focus on the end results
  - Jesus sees the whole picture
- We tend to focus on the “reaping”
  - Jesus sees the work of those who come before... the process that comes before the reaping... namely the sowing.

Jesus tells them,

**“...lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”**

- Jesus is starting with the end in mind, but there is more to this
- This *could be* a local saying
- This *could be* based on the clothing they were wearing (that area was known for the production of white material).

**What Jesus is announcing is what He knows is going to take place...**

**Many will put their hope and trust in Him**

- God (and maybe others) have been sowing into the hearts of these people
  - Beginning with the woman Jesus was speaking to...
  - Now through the woman Jesus was speaking to...

**This really made me pause and hear the words of Jesus a bit differently this time...**

**<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”**

It could be **easy to get off-track** a bit and talk about the **laws of sowing and reaping *in different ways*** – but **that is not here...**

- Here, it is ***not about money***
- Here, it is ***not about our actions*** (in reaping what we sow)

**Here, it is about sowing seeds of His Good News... into people.**

There was **something that hit me** in the **midst of all of this.**

**Consistent with Paul’s teaching that there are many gifts and One giver – We are all needed in the Body of Christ...**

**I believe it is true that there are some that sow while others reap – At times we can do both!**

The challenge is **knowing who you are, what you are called to** in that time and space.

***What’s this look like practically?...***

There are **some people who are “reapers”** –

- **The kind that that *no matter where they show up*, others are **soon to follow.****
- There are **just plain “gatherers.”**
  - They can be the **life of the party**
  - They can be the ones to **get people to *get going***
  - They are the ones who **people will be willing to follow**



**THEN** there are people who prepare others for these kinds of people.

- They are the safe ones on the side, encouraging, loving, serving.
- These are the people who help when needed, bringing people to a place where they can find their feet.
- They are “Sowers.”

**Jesus said,**

**“...Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”**

Some versions say “*hard word*” instead of labor...

Being **one who sows** is not glamorous

Being **one who sows** does not get the attention

But **sowing is necessary** if there is going to be any kind of harvest

**I believe there are churches like this as well.**

In our culture, it is **easy to get caught up in all the numbers**, the **huge baptism services**, the **concerts or events that draw others in by the thousands...**

All of this is **good**, and **needed for the kingdom**, I love it when I **see a move of God like that...**

**BUT, Jesus is saying that there is a HUGE need for the work that precedes this:**

- The work of **plowing**
- The work of **sowing**
- The work of **watering**
- The work of ***maintaining the crop for the harvest***

**“...so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.”**

## **Could it be that WE are a “sowing church?”**

- **Not** to say there is *never reaping*
- **BUT would it be OK, if our MAIN role was in sowing seed?**
  - Look at **all the outreach** that is **natural** to who we are
    - **Quilts**
    - **Clothing**
    - **Food**
    - **Counseling training**
    - **Creating space and a place**
      - For **Sundays** after service
      - For **Wednesday nights**
      - For **teens** during the week
      - For the **studies** during the week
      - **For all the other meetings that take place**

## **Would it be OK, if our MAIN role was in sowing seed?**

**Our responsibility is to do as the Lord leads – whether it is sowing or reaping... or both!**

***John 4:36***

***<sup>36</sup> Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.***

***“...so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.”***

***John 4:39-42***

***<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for***

***ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”***

No matter how many times I read this, I am filled.

- I love a happy ending
- I love redemption!

What I love about this particular story...

- This woman was not:
  - Qualified
  - Trained
  - Discipled

The “paint wasn’t even dry” yet with this gal ...

**BUT GOD USED HER!**

Her change must have been **so compelling** that the **people HAD TO SEE what this guy was all about!**

- They were now convinced.
- They asked him to stay... and He did.

These new converts proclaim something very powerful...

***“...and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”***

This is the **first time** this is proclaimed

This is the **only time** we see this proclaimed by people like this –

- **Not** disciples
- **Not** Jews
- **Not** “prophets”

The only other time we see this proclaimed is in John's first letter...

## **1 John 4:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.***

**This chapter closes with...**

***<sup>43</sup> After the two days he departed for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) <sup>45</sup> So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.***

**The ministry of Jesus kept going forward, now with great victory under their built in Samaria – where NONE of this should have happened...**

**John CONTRASTS that with in His hometown, where people should be lining in the streets!**

**Typical humans...**

