

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 4:1-45 – Part 1

Sermon notes – BK

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We are in chapter 4 of John today...

Last week, we got an amazing glimpse into what we now know as the transition between John the Baptist and His ministry in the wilderness, and the ministry of Jesus.

What an amazing picture to SEE the hope of salvation realized in the person and work of Jesus.

ALL in ONE shot – This “Once-in-an-Ever” picture!

Baptizing on both sides of the river...
Building the Kingdom from both sides

It was a tough transition for some of John the Baptist's disciples to see – **BUT NOT FOR JOHN...** **HE was ELATED** to see the Kingdom of God at hand!
JTB used the language of he being the Best Man, watching and waiting for the bridegroom to come... and be to one to announce His arrival...

John declares, now that the bridegroom is here...

“He must increase, I must decrease...”

(We do have the audio messages available on the website, so jump on over to that later if you like to get filled in on details you may be interested in.)

John's response to all of this is amazing.

John proclaims whatever he has is a gift

John 3:27

²⁷ John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.”

This theme of a “gift” is continued on in chapter 4

John 3 opened had a very insightful conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus...

Here, Jesus proclaims, **“For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son...”**

Nicodemus was one who “should have got it” but DIDN'T (at least not at the time – he does seem-to later)

Today, we will read of the conversation between Jesus and the woman at the well – *One who “should NOT have got it” but we will see she DID!*

We will get there (next week) – Let’s dig in, shall we?

John 4:1-6

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- Verse one, ***“Now when Jesus learned...”***

- There are **other places** where we see ***“Jesus learned”*** or ***“heard”***
 - When He was a child – ***Luke 2:52, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”***
 - When He ***“heard”*** about things and responded accordingly
 - When **Jesus heard JTB was arrested** – Mt. 4:12
 - When **Jesus heard** about **JTB’ death** – Mt. 14:13
 - **All the times Jesus “heard” what people said:**
 - **Jesus listened** and was engaged
 - **Jesus responded** to what they said, their faith, or their lack of faith...

I wonder... does this point to where *Jesus “being fully man”* comes in?

- ***“Jesus learned...”***
 - Did He not know this?
 - If he did know this, ***could it be*** that ***Jesus didn’t let on*** He knew.
 - **This is by no means a main thing**, just an interesting place to pause and acknowledge. No doctrine, no soap box – just interesting.

Whatever the case, **Jesus is demonstrating what it is to walk by the Spirit in the path the Lord leads Him to**, being **aware** of what is going on around Him.

As 4:2 says, **Jesus’ disciples were the ones doing the baptizing.**

- When this came to light (gaining the attention of the Pharisees) – **Jesus left that area.**
 - **Jesus was NOT in competition with John**
 - Maybe Jesus did not want to take anything away from the ministry of John...
 - Could it be it was time for Jesus to move on...?
 - ***We don’t know*** -

What we do know is **Jesus (and His disciples) did move on to Galilee – by way of Samaria...**

- **Jesus and His disciples passed through Samaria**
 - o Interestingly, I had always heard that Jews, especially the pious, would **take a different route to go around Samaria**, rather than through this way because of prejudice, etc.
 - I [learned](#) that there is a lot of **evidence pointing to this not really being the case**
 - While **this is not any key point** in the text, it is good to point to things that **may need to shift a bit** in our narrative ;-)

I believe this was an intentional set-up by Jesus, for what was **about to unfold**.

- **Jesus stopped at Jacob's well**
 - o **Significant** in that this was **on the land Jacob gave to Joseph** who settled in this area.
 - **This is one of the most verifiable biblical sites**



I read this in my research and thought I'd share it...

For Christians, Jacob's well represents a place where a sinful person can come and encounter Jesus as Savior. As early as AD 380, the well has been a site of churches—a new one built after the previous was destroyed. The well now lies in the crypt of the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint Jacob's Well in Nablus in the West Bank. The well is significant for Christians, Jews, and Muslims; in 1979, the abbot of the monastery was murdered and the church defiled by Zionist Jews who wished to claim the area as a Jewish holy site. It is rare for us to know the exact location of the events that are listed in the Gospels, but it is significant that this one is the place where Jesus offered salvation to those of mixed Jewish and Gentile descent. [Source](#)

Interesting for sure...

Back to our text...

John 4:6

6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

We also see the humanity of Jesus in that He was *“wearied as he was from His journey...”*

- Sixth hour – since their **day started at 6:00am, this would be noon...**
 - o **Significant** because **it would be hot**
 - o This is **not the time the women from the town** would normally draw water
 - **Too hot**
 - Also, they would usually come together...

Let's read on...

John 4:7-9

7 A woman from 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 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

We have to **pause** here...

As you may have guessed (or already know), **Jesus broke all kinds of rules here**, even with just this simple request.

Why?... We have layers...

FIRST

- o **A man talking with a woman** in a public place was **forbidden**
 - **Rabbi's forbade men to talk to women** in the streets
 - They **even forbade men to talk with their wives** in public (Boy **THAT** would be helpful when they are **shopping!**)

THEN

- o A Jew talking with a Samaritan
- o Samaritans were a mixed-race, half Gentile/half Jewish
- o **Samaritans** held the Torah Sacred, but **mixed other beliefs in with their beliefs to form their own religion**
- o Jews disrespected them, the feeling was mutual.

FURTHER...

- o **A Jewish rabbi talking with a Samaritan woman (Both of these elements would be a BIG no-way... wow!)**
- It was pretty obvious that a woman getting water at noon - when it was hot – would be avoiding the crowds for a reason... she was not considered an honorable person... and **Jesus is STILL engaging her...**
- **SO... to build on this** - Jesus, (a Jewish Rabbi) asked an “unclean Samaritan woman” for a drink, from HER vessel...
 - o **She** was ***unclean***
 - o **The vessel** was ***unclean***
 - o **Drinking this would have been UNTHINKABLE**

You get the picture?

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

I take the time with this because *though you may have heard it...* we must realize, **this SHOULD NOT have happened!**

Yet... JESUS IS DRIVING this conversation-bus!

I wonder... how many of us would have missed this exchange all together?

I know we are **not Jewish**, nor living in that time – but **imagine yourself being there...**

- **We would not have talked** with someone of the opposite sex
- **We would never have considered** defiling ourselves drinking from an unclean vessel as Jesus was willing to do!
- **We certainly would not have engaged in deep religious conversation!**

BUT – what we see here –

Jesus was doing what His Father led 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...**
 - o **Will we follow His lead?**
 - His leading could be **across the street**
 - His leading could be **in your family**
 - His leading could be **here in this church**
 - **HIGHLY LIKELY...** His lead will be to **a place that is not comfortable**

*I am grateful - **God will provide in all the places He will guide...***

WOW – all of that, and **we have not even gotten into the conversation yet!**

It is important however to understand (or be reminded of) these foundational truths and background of this encounter...

- **To grasp the depth** of what we are reading about
- **To be able to put ourselves in the story**
- **To be able to follow His lead** when we find ourselves being used like this

Jesus said of Himself... When He was having dinner at Zacchaeus the tax collector's house...

Luke 19:9-10

⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Keep reading...

John 4:10-15

¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁰ 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.”

If you knew the gift ... (soon she will!)

She did not know.

How could she know?

She is about to find out!

GIFT

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

How do I know this? Here are some examples...

John 3:16

“For God so love the world, He gave...”

Romans 3:23-24

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Acts 2:38-39

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the

promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

There is a lot more to this “gift” as well, as we now know – we can see it in the rest of the New Testament...

- In Acts 10:45, **the “gift” of the HS** given to the Gentiles
- **Based on THIS gift**, Paul gives us clear instruction on **the gifts of the Holy Spirit** that follow...
 - o Read Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 & 14

This “Gift of God” is a BIG DEAL

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

“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,

The One who **has the ability to give beyond** what she can ask or imagine is **asking her** for something...

“Give me a drink.”

I do not look to over-spiritualize this – Jesus was simply asking/directing this woman for a drink – easy, right?

- ***She had the means*** to get the water
- ***She had the strength*** to retrieve the water
- ***She could fully provide*** what Jesus was asking for

BUT – because of all the cultural boundaries, this would have been lost by anyone else of that day.

Jesus was not afraid to ask, or instruct...

John 4:16-20

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

Do you wonder why this woman responds as she does?

- **Is she changing the subject because she was embarrassed?**
- **Is she trying to get answers from a guy that seems to know His stuff?**

WHY?

How about you dig into that question yourself this week and we will talk about it NEXT WEEK... on Mother’s Day!

I know the weather is supposed to be great

- **Just come here with your momma – or momma, bring your kids and grandkids!**

The contrast between Nicodemus and this “woman at the well” could not be more stark

- **EXP**

YET –

- **Both needed Jesus**
- **Both needed salvation**
- **Both had to receive the “gift”**