

The Word Made Flesh

The Samaritan Woman and The Living Water

John 4:1–42

1. Setting the Scene (John 4:1–6)

- Jesus leaves Judea as His ministry grows and intentionally travels through Samaria.
- Jews and Samaritans have a centuries-long hostility rooted in exile, intermarriage, syncretism, and competing worship traditions.
- Most Jews avoided Samaria entirely, adding 30 miles to their journey—but Jesus *had* to go through it.
- In chapter 3 Jesus came for the religious elite (Nicodemus); in chapter 4 He comes for the outcast.

2. The Well (John 4:7–9)

- Jesus arrives at Jacob’s well around noon—the hottest time of day.
- A woman arrives alone, revealing she is an outcast among outcasts.
- Jesus speaks to her, breaking social, racial, gender, and moral boundaries.
- Asking her for a drink is an act of honor and hospitality, inviting relationship rather than avoiding it.

3. The Exchange (John 4:10–15)

- Jesus offers her “living water,” a spiritual metaphor describing the new birth and eternal life.
- Physical water satisfies temporarily; the living water satisfies eternally.
- Salvation is described as a spring that wells up from within—deep, soul-level satisfaction, freedom, and life.
- The woman desires this water but still misunderstands, thinking in earthly terms.

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4. The Truth Comes Out (John 4:16–18)

- Jesus exposes her story: five husbands and a live-in partner.
- She carries shame, whether from her own sin or from having been repeatedly mistreated.
- Jesus seeks her intentionally, proving His love for the broken, overlooked, and rejected.
- Chapter 3: the moral and religious need salvation. Chapter 4: the immoral and discarded need it too.

5. Worship in Spirit and Truth (John 4:19–26)

A. Worship in Spirit

- Not emotional experience, not speaking in tongues, and not external rituals.
- True worship begins internally with a reborn heart made alive by the Spirit.
- It manifests in the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, etc.
- External practices matter, but without internal transformation they are empty.

B. Worship in Truth

- Rooted in the truth of who God is and who Christ is.
- Requires integrity, honesty, and living according to the revelation of Scripture.
- Jesus reveals Himself: “I who speak to you am He”—the long-awaited Messiah.

6. The Response (John 4:27–30, 39–42)

- The woman leaves her water jar—symbolizing her old life and old priorities.
- She becomes one of the first evangelists, boldly telling the very people she had been hiding from.
- Many believe because of her testimony, and many more believe because they encounter Jesus themselves.
- The town declares: “We know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

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7. Three Key Observations

1. **She never got her drink of water**
 - What she found in Christ was better than what she came for.
2. **One of the first evangelists was a woman**
 - Her testimony transformed a city.
3. **The more time she spent with Jesus, the clearer He became**
 - Her understanding grows: Rabbi → Prophet → Messiah.