



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 9
John 4:1-15

I. Jesus is purposeful

- ✿ John 4:1-4--*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*



Was Jesus afraid?

- Some read this and assume that Jesus is fearful. They say it looks like he is afraid of a confrontation with the Pharisees. They support this further by pointing out that the text says that he “**had** to pass through Samaria.” They argue that this is his escape route. Jesus knew how much the Jews hated the Samaritans and thus he was guaranteed safe passage because they wouldn’t pursue him into Samaria. However, we will soon see that this idea is foolish...

1. Jesus was clearly not afraid of the Pharisees

- This is demonstrated by his direct interaction with them in Matthew 23 where he verbally assaults them for 36 verses. Here are some excerpts...
 - ✿ Matthew 23:13--*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people 's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.*
 - ✿ Matthew 23:24-28--*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! 25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self- indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! 27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*
 - ✿ Matthew 23:33--*You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?*

2. Jesus was a man with nothing to fear at all.

- ✿ John 1:1-3--*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - Here we see that Jesus is eternal, God, and Lord of creation. What does he have to fear?
- ✿ John 3:34-36--*For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
 - Here we see that Jesus speaks the very words of God, has been given the Spirit without measure, and is so loved by God that he has given everything to him. Not to mention that he alone is the giver of eternal life! What does he have to fear?
- ✿ John 10:18--*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.*



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Part 9

John 4:1-15

- Here we see that no one can kill Jesus. When he dies it won't be because someone got the better of him, it will be his choice. Here we see that Jesus won't stay dead. He has the power to resurrect himself. What does he have to fear?



Why then did Jesus leave? Why did he HAVE to go through Samaria?

- Jesus was compelled not by fear but by the Father.
 - ❖ John 4:34--*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.*
 - ❖ John 5:19--*So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise*
 - ❖ John 6:38--*For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*
 - ❖ John 8:28-29--*So Jesus said to them, When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.*
 - ❖ John 12:49-50--*For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment — what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.*
 - ❖ John 14:31--*I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father*
 - ❖ John 17:4--*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*
- Since it is crystal clear that Jesus is compelled by the Father rather than fear, one should ask...“What is the Father sending Jesus to do?” We will see in just a moment.



Point of application:

- You might be asking yourself, “Why is Kenny spending all this time explaining why Jesus left and went through Samaria!?” I have two reasons for doing this...
 - (1) It's my job to teach the Bible, and this is in the Bible.
 - (2) In explaining this, I hope you will see that Jesus has a purpose in everything he does. So when your life is full of troubles and you aren't sure what in the world is going on. In those moments you aren't sure what God is doing, why he is doing it, or even if he is doing anything at all, I want you to remember that Jesus does everything for a reason. He doesn't always reveal his reasons to us, but he always has one and that should bring us great comfort.

II. Jesus is personal



- ❖ John 4:5-9--*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. 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.)*



A divine appointment

- This is the what we are seeing here in John 4. This is why Jesus had to leave when he did. This is why Jesus had to go through Samaria. God the Father made a divine appointment for Jesus to meet with this woman. A divine appointment where Jesus demonstrates the individual, personal



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 9

John 4:1-15

nature of the love of God. There was no crowd gathered. There was just this woman from Sychar. This is how personal God's love is.

- In John 3:16 we saw that God's love expressed through his sending Jesus was immensely wide. It is not just for the Jewish people. It is for the Jewish people and through the Jewish people to all the peoples of the earth. In John 4 we see that God's love is not just corporate, but also individual and personal. He doesn't just love and save people groups, he loves and saves individual people. We see this in other passages like...
 - ❖ John 10:3-4--*The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*
 - ❖ John 11:33-36--*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, Where have you laid him? They said to him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, See how he loved him!*
 - ❖ Galatians 2:20--*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*



What we know about this woman shows us that God's decision to love her, has nothing to do with her own merits.

(1) A Samaritan Woman:

- ❖ John 4:9--*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.)*
 - The Jewish sentiment towards the Samaritans was later made Jewish law which stated that "all the daughters of the Samaritans are menstruants from their cradle and therefore perpetually in a state of ceremonial uncleanness."¹
 - From this we clearly see that she didn't merit Jesus' undivided attention because she was from good stock. In fact, it was disturbing to the disciples that Jesus would speak to such a person (John 4:27). Jesus' personal, saving love is not restricted to any particular people group. He will love whom he will love regardless of their ethnicity.

(2) Faithless:

- ❖ John 4:6-7--*It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water.*
 - This is unusual. Normally women can't draw water early in the day to avoid the heat. They also did not usually come alone. The likely reason she came later and alone is found a few verses later...
 - ❖ John 4:17-18--*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.*
 - The implication here is that Jesus' personal saving love is not received because we deserve it. You do not merit Jesus' personal saving love by being good and you are not disqualified from being personally loved by Jesus because of your past deeds.

¹ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel of John: Pillar New Testament Commentary*



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 9

John 4:1-15

III. Jesus is powerful

- ❖ John 4:10-14--*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.*



Jesus is the Gift of God:

- When Jesus says, “if you only knew the Gift of God” he is not pointing out her failure to recognize him as the Messiah. He is pointing out that she has only a limited understanding of who the Messiah would be. Jesus on the road to emmaus (Luke 24:27) explained to his disciples that the entire Old Testament spoke of him and his coming. Samaritans only used the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament). So while she would have known that there would be a Messiah (evidenced by John 4:25). She didn’t really have a full concept of what that meant. She never read passages like...
 - ❖ Proverbs 30:4--*Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son 's name? Surely you know!*
 - ❖ Isaiah 7:14--*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*
 - ❖ Isaiah 9:6-7--*...called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,*
 - ❖ Isaiah 11:1-5--*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*
 - ❖ Isaiah 25:8-9--*He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*
 - ❖ Isaiah 40:9-11--*Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*
 - ❖ Isaiah 53:5--*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned —every one —to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- She knew none of these verses. She was incapable of comprehending the gift of God that was standing before her.



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Part 9

John 4:1-15

Jesus gives Living Water


- Have you ever wondered why she doesn't ask "Living water? What are you talking about?" The reason she does not is because the phrase living water would have meant a fresh water spring to her ears. However, Jesus shows us that he means much more than just a fresh water spring when he declares that his water becomes "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jesus has the power to grant eternal life to those who are deserving of eternal wrath.

Jesus is greater than Jacob

- The woman is challenging Jesus. She is apparently pretty proud of her well. After all, it had been dug by Jacob and had been providing people with water for a couple thousand years. Who is this guy to think he can do better! It probably smacked of Jewish arrogance to her in the moment.
- Regardless of whether it seemed arrogant or not Jesus' response let's her know that he is indeed greater than Jacob. Jacob's well only met a physical need. Jacob's well could only temporarily satisfy one's thirst. What Jesus is offering her is not physical, but spiritual. What Jesus is offering is eternally satisfying. What Jesus is offering her is life.

IV. Response

❖ John 4:15--*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.*

- She does not yet understand all that Christ is offering her, yet, in this verse, we that one thing she longs to be rid of. She doesn't want to come to the well anymore. Why? Does she find getting water so laborious? No, I don't think it is that. I think rather it is the shame. R.C. Sproul says...
"It was as if she said: 'I hate it every time I come here. I feel like I have a scarlet 'A' sewn on my clothing. I have to sneak past the eyes of every woman in the village. When I come here and sit at this place to get my water, I feel ashamed, embarrassed, and alone. If You have water like this, give it to me, and I'll never have to come back to this well again."²
- She was merely looking to avoid public shame. Little did she know that Jesus was offering to do much more than allow her to deal with her guilt in private. Jesus was offering to cleanse her totally from within! He was beginning the process of making her someone who had nothing to be ashamed of even before the heavenly Father.
-  How is it that we respond to Jesus? Does learning that Jesus is purposeful, personal, and powerful cause us to say "Sir, give me this water?" Do we find ourselves longing to know Jesus more and more? Do we long to have Jesus satisfy the deepest thirsts of our soul?

² R.C. Sproul, *John: St. Andrews Expositional Commentary*