

*John 4:1-10* The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, (2) although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. (3) When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. (4) Now he had to go through Samaria. (5) So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. (6) Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. (7) When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (8) (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) (9) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) (10) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Let's go to the Lord in prayer. Father, we pause for a moment and thank you so much for the living water that comes from your son. We pray that your Spirit will teach us and draw us closer to you so that we might never be the same again after studying your word but have a walk on a higher plane with you than we ever had before for your honor and glory. In Jesus name, amen.

The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, and because of that Jesus left Judea and went back to Galilee. Why did he do this? It was because he didn't want the Pharisees to be able to cause some kind of riff. The issue wasn't about who was baptizing whom, but it was about Jesus Christ.

Jesus had to travel through Samaria in order to reach Galilee, and the Jews hated the Samaritans. Usually, Jews would entirely avoid going through Samaria by crossing over the Jordan River to the east, which would almost double the time to make the journey.

After Solomon died (1 Kings 12) his son Rehoboam succeeded him as king. Shortly after Solomon's death Jeroboam and other leaders approached Rehoboam and asked that the burdensome labor and taxes that Solomon had imposed on the nation would be lightened.

Rehoboam went to it to his father's counselors and asked for their advice. Their advice was for Rehoboam to be a servant leader and reduce the burden that had been placed on the people. Rehoboam rejected their advice and asked men of his age if he should lighten the yoke that his father had put on them. Their advice was: *1 Kings 12:10-11* The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'—tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. (11) My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

Rehoboam being the fool he was, listened to the young men instead of the old men. (Any group of people that listen to the young instead of the old usually show themselves to be foolish, because by virtue of being old, more mature men been around longer and have more wisdom.)

Most of the nation rebelled against Rehoboam and Jeroboam ended up as king over what

became the 10 tribes in the northern part of Israel, sometimes called Samaria. Rehoboam remained king over the two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) in the southern part of Israel, sometimes called Judah.

Jerusalem remained as the southern kingdom's capital and the northern kingdom selected Shechem and later a northern city called Samaria as their capital. Jeroboam, afraid that the people in his kingdom would go to Jerusalem to worship God and return to King Rehoboam's authority, built two golden calves, and told his people to worship and bring their offerings to them. Jeroboam's successor kings also continued to do things their way instead of God's way, which led to God allowing the Assyrians to march against the city of Samaria and deport most of the population.

The Samaritans did this so that they could control the people. The deported people would be replaced with people from other nations resulting in intermarriages and a blended population. As time went on, the Samaritans were known as "half-breeds" because they were part Jewish and part other nationalities. An example of how much the Jews hated Samaritans is shown in [John 8:48](#) *The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"*

Jesus was tired from the journey and sat down by the well at the town of Sychar. This speaks of the humanity of Christ. If you've ever worked yourself to the bone, and you said, I'm so tired, I don't know whether I'm coming or going, God can't understand this. But Christ could totally understand it because he was human, and he functioned totally as a human while on the earth.

Notice that it was about the sixth hour. It isn't known if the author was using Roman or Jewish time. If it was the sixth hour using Roman time, it would have been six o'clock in the evening. If it was Jewish time, it would have been at noon. The important thing to know is that Jesus was tired and sat down by the well, and his disciples have left to buy food.

When the Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus asked her to give him a drink. We don't know much about her but can surmise that she was unpopular since she was alone, and women didn't go for water by themselves. Usually, a group of women would go for safety's sake and socially interact with each other. We also know that she was poor, because at this point in time only poor women drew their own water. She also had some other flaws that will be revealed by Jesus.

The woman replies [John 4:9](#) *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

Her response might be paraphrased as follows; *Why are you asking me for a drink? You don't talk to me? I'm a lowlife compared to you. After all, you're a rabbi.*

(It should be noted that Rabbis weren't supposed to talk to women in public and didn't even speak to own wives in public. Christianity is what has raised the level of womanhood to the level it is today.)

[Galatians 3:26-29](#) *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, (27) for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

This woman is so different than the last person Christ talked to which was Nicodemus. Nicodemus was wealthy, and she was not. Nicodemus was a Jew, and she was a Samaritan. Nicodemus was pious and religious, and she was irreligious. Nicodemus had class and frankly, she had none. Nicodemus followed rules but she made her own rules. Nicodemus was well respected, but this woman garnered no respect from anyone. Nicodemus came to Christ, but Christ went to this woman. Also, Nicodemus showed no evident conversion to Christ, but she demonstrated a conversion to Christ. Nicodemus didn't seem to have an influence on anyone toward Christ, but she had influenced a whole town.

There's a big of difference in the way that Christ dealt with them. I say this because God deals with people on an individual basis

*John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

The woman was ignorant of three facts:

What the gift of God was.

Who she was speaking to.

How to receive the gift.

*John 4:11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"*

To her way of thinking, living water was moving water. The water in front of them was in a cistern that was filled with rainwater, which wouldn't be nearly as good as living water from a stream or river. She is totally confused and has no understanding of what Jesus was talking about.

In the next two verses, she sounds a bit sarcastic. (She really doesn't have anything to lose, since she's already at the bottom of the totem pole.)

*John 4:11-15 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? (12) Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" (13) Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, (14) but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I 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 won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."*

She does not understand that Christ is offering her something that will fill a thirst that she's never had quenched in her entire life.

She can't get beyond physical relationships and everything around her. What was her goals in life? What was she looking for? Who knows? Everything's on a horizontal plane. She had no in-depth view at anything, no spiritual aptitude for spiritual truths.

*John 4:16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."*

Christ has just addressed her point of need. because she doesn't have a husband. She's had many husbands, and that has to do with her thirst. All these verses are related.

I want to make that clear that you don't have to repent of your sins to be saved. I also want to make it clear that you have to understand that you are a sinner. Christ is putting his finger on the fact that she's a sinner, and she knows it. There has to be an

understanding that without God, you don't have a chance to get to heaven. You have to turn toward him. Salvation is not about sitting here and enumerating all the sins you have committed. Salvation is about believing in Jesus Christ but also knowing that you're a sinner.

*John 4:17-18 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. (18) The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."*

Why would a woman ever want to have five husbands? Think about that for a moment. After two or three wouldn't she say, this is nothing? I don't need this. We find out when we look at movie stars, - they want husbands, they want wives, and they want a lot of them, because there's something thrilling about falling in love. Somebody new we can get to learn about. And there's this heaviness that goes with being in love and that feeling you get in your stomach. It's new, and everything's great, and you get to start over. That's why the movie stars go from marriage to marriage to marriage because they have the money, and they can afford it. It's not a new thing and it's not going to stop as we see in the following passage.

*Luke 17:26-28 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. (27) People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. (28) "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.*

People were just swapping wives and swapping husbands. Their attitude was "I had you for a husband for a while and I thought you were going to fill my needs, but you haven't filled my needs. This other guy looks like he's going to fill my needs, so I'm going to marry him or at least live with him."

You may say that you're not someone that swaps wives or husbands. But perhaps you buy gadgets and stuff. New stuff, new cars, new houses, new boats, new boats. (Okay, boats and fishing gear might be okay.) But the truth is, our nation is deeply in debt today because people want to have new things. Am I right? Television works because of commercials. Commercials work because they play on people's desire for something new. I bought a truck. And I'm all excited about it but in six months it's just another old truck. I'm used to it, the newness is gone, and a new model has come out and is shaped a little different. And it's got another gadget on it. So, we keep moving around trying to quench our thirst. There is a hole inside of every person that only God can fill. The Samaritan woman had gone through six men so far and she couldn't fill the hole that she had. I don't know very many people like that, but I'll tell you that many Christian people are trying to fill a hole that only God can fill. Until they realize that only God can fill it, they keep buying and doing and playing and going and experimenting and doing whatever. The problem is the stuff is never new for very long, but then you have the bills to pay. If any of you are thinking of having an affair, I'll give you this warning. Pretty soon you'll marry and settle into the same old routine that you had before. There won't be any excitement because the same bills will that came due every month when you had the other spouse will still be there. Pretty soon you may have new kids and then you may have sick kids, ---. Think about it.

*John 4:10* Jesus answered her, "If you **knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.**"

If the Samaritan woman had known the gift that Jesus had to offer, she would have been a far different person.

*John 4:19-20* "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. (20) Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

She has elevated her thinking about Christ but still doesn't know who he is. (The Samaritans had a mountain garrison where they had built a temple where they had started their own religion.)

*John 4:21-22* Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Christianity says, you come to Christ, the mountain garrison says it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as I believe it with all your heart. In other words, they had started their own worship that they didn't really understand, but they were sincere in that belief, and because they were sincere, they thought it was ok, because their thoughts were genuine. This is the old Pan Theory. The Pan Theory is that "It will all Pan out in the end anyway. The problem is that the pan will wash away.

*John 4:23-24* Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (24) God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

You can believe all you want, as sincerely as you want to, but if what you believe is not what God says, then it means absolutely nothing. You may have a sincere belief that you have a cold, but if you really have a terminal disease, it will take your life if you treat it like a cold. Notice what he says in verse 24. "**God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.**"

This tells us something about the person of God when we get to heaven. We're not going to see God the Father standing there, because God the Father is spirit.

*Luke 24:36-40* While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" (37) They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (38) He said to them, "**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? (39) Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost [spirit] does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**" (40) When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

In heaven we will see the presence of God, but we will not see God the Father Himself. We will see an image of where he is, and all of the power and all of the glory that radiates from his existence. But what we see will be the son. He is the full manifestation of the Godhead.

The woman's statement in verse 25 indicates that she still did not know who she was talking to.

*John 4:25* The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Many commentators believe that she was changing the subject, but I don't think so. She sincerely wanted to know the truth, but she thought Christ is a prophet.

*John 4:26* Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Jesus makes it very clear that he is the Messiah. God meets people on the level where they are, and when they want to know the truth, he makes it clear to them. The woman didn't know who she was talking to or what he had to offer, but she wanted to know. When she gets the answer, she leaves her water jar and goes back to the town where she lived.

*John 4:28-29* Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, (29) "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

All of her life she had a thirst as she went from man to man to man. Then she found out her thirst wasn't really for men. She found out that it wasn't a man she was looking for, It was the Savior.

Her life was totally changed when she met Jesus Christ face to face. Her religious questions were answered. She found out who she was talking to, discovered the gift that he was offering, and found out how to receive it. It was all by faith.

Some of you are saved but are tremendously thirsty. Your thirst will not be quenched until you have a closer walk with God. Toys are never going to quench it. Other people are never going to satisfy that thirst. It's only when you give up on things and turn to the person of Christ, that you're going to find real fulfillment.

We weren't created to live on this earth. We are a group of beings that have a home in another place. You will never find satisfaction with earthly things. We have to fix our minds and hearts on the things above. That's where true satisfaction is.

Some of you have forgotten what it's like to even be thirsty. You've been saved so long you forgot that there's a whole world out there that's dying for a drink of living water. At least this woman knew she had something worth sharing. She ran home and shared the good news with everybody in the town. When was the last time that you were excited about the person of Christ, and excited about eternal life? If you've forgotten how thirsty this world is, I'm asking you to consider sharing the best news the world is ever going to hear. Ask God who he would have you speak to about a relationship with him.

Perhaps you're not saved. Maybe you don't have a relationship with Christ. I want to encourage you right now, where you are, to receive Christ as your Savior. All those things that you think will bring you satisfaction will not compare with a relationship with Christ.

Maybe you're a believer and you haven't been living for Him. I want to encourage you to start living for him like you've never lived for him before.

Father, I pray that you will help everyone reading this to start walking on a higher plane with you and if there are any decisions that need to be made public, that you will give them the courage to do that. In Jesus name, Amen.