

JOHN 4 vs 1

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During the 3 ½ years of Jesus teaching, it is interesting to consider why John wrote an entire chapter about the encounter Jesus had with a woman in Samaria... someone in a region avoided by the religious leaders and common folk alike. But we learn, she is going to have a **METANOIA moment**... an opportunity to **rethink**, to **reconsider**; in other words, **to change her mind**... before the chapter closes.

¹ So when the Lord knew that the Pharisees heard, that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

² (though Jesus did **not baptize), but His disciples did /** apparently, they ministered the outward, external water baptism; John the Baptist said, I baptize with water... but when He who is greater comes... He will baptize with the Spirit and with fire,

³ He left Judea and departed to Galilee / to avoid the early pharisaical persecutions and disruptions.

⁴ And He needed to go through **Samaria /** the former region of the 10 northern tribes of the **House of Israel**... sometimes called: **the House of Ephraim**... the younger son of Joseph in Egypt... who received ALL the birthright promises first given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Roughly speaking, Samaria was bordered on the north from Mount Carmel to the Sea of Galilee; on the south, north of Joppa across to Bethel and to the Jordan River. In the 21st century, this area is called: **the West Bank**, the mountainous region west of the Jordan River. The prophet Isaiah said... the **envy** of Ephraim will depart; and Ephraim will not **envy** Judah... his brother -- the little **House of Judah** being the southern 2 tribes... from where came the Jewish people; from where also came the promised Branch of Jesse... the royal law-giver and promised Messiah of God.

From the resettling of the land after the Exodus, this northern area was always a contentious home for the unmanageable 10 tribes of **Israel**: who went captive to Assyria; the area was repopulated with many peoples.

⁵ Then Jesus came to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph / about 35 miles north of Jerusalem, a special inheritance... to the 11th son of Jacob, the first born of Rachel.

⁶ Now Jacob's well was there / it is still flowing after 3,500 years.

So Jesus, being tired from His journey, sat at the well and it was about the sixth hour / from **Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary** © 1871... we read: as you might fancy a weary man would; an instance of the graphic style of John. In fact, this is perhaps the most human of all the scenes of our Lord's earthly history. We seem to be beside Him, overhearing all that is here recorded. But with all that is human, how much also of the divine do we have here... which the Lord imparts light and life to this unlikeliest of strangers, standing midway between the Jewish and the heathen: it was noonday; when, in the Song of Songs, we read: even the flocks would rest. Yet Jesus said, I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day.



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7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water / she had her bucket and was thirsty, too: and Jesus said to her, Give me a drink.

8 (For His disciples went to the city to buy food)

9 The woman of Samaria said to him, How is it that you being Jewish ask me for a drink, since I am a woman of Samaria / not altogether refusing, yet marveling at so unusual a request from a Jewish man, as his clothing and dialect at once would reveal him to be; for whatever reason... women in the Middle East... are not in the habit of speaking to strangers, still today.

for the Jewish have no dealings with Samaritans / it is this national hostility that gives emphasis to the good Samaritan -- **Luke 11**; and the thankfulness of the Samaritan leper -- **Luke 17**. Obviously, Jesus was not party to the hostile resentments generated by those divisive traditions of men.

10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God / previously John wrote: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,

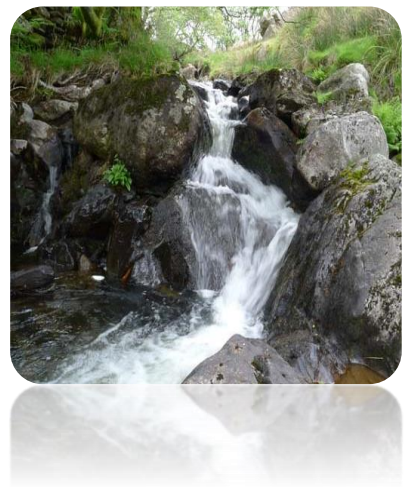
If you knew who it is that says to you, Give me a drink; you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water / Jesus says, if you knew who was asking; you would gladly change places to make a similar request -- gently reflecting on her hesitancy for not meeting His request immediately.

11 The woman said to him, Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: so from where do you get that mysterious living water?

12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his children, and his cattle? / she's listening; and already perceiving in this Stranger a claim to some mysterious prominence; Josephus the historian writes: when it was good with the Jewish people, they claimed kindred to them, as being descended from Joseph, but when misfortunes befell the Jews they disowned all connection with them. [Josephus, 9.14,3]

13 Jesus, sizing up the situation, said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again / plainly He indicates this natural well water touching only the superficial, carnal, mundane parts of our nature:

14 But whoever drinks the water I give, that one will never thirst; but the water that I give will be a fountain of water, welling up to everlasting life / springing, gushing, bubbling up ... and flowing forth within, ever fresh, ever living.



15 The woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water so I will not thirst, nor have to come all the way here to draw / her response is not the evidence of stupidity... she expresses a wondering desire for she hardly knew what... from this mysterious Stranger. Until now, this

woman was only concerned with the welfare of her body; she had come for a drink. Jesus is more concerned about the welfare of the soul.

16 Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband, and come here / notice the way of Jesus as He inspires her to deal consciously and in truth. He does not ask, Are you a Christian? He does not ask, Do you know Jesus? Certainly, He does not ask her to pray some routine prayer... starting with: repeat after me: I know that I'm a sinner. That is not Jesus' style. He would never say those words, right?

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband.

Jesus / who knows the heart; and all the details of the heart, yours and mine included; **said to her, You have said well, I have no husband:**

18 for you have had five husbands; and the one whom you now have is not your husband: this you said truly / perhaps, the first time in her life she spoke truthfully. As a college student, I remember reading, even memorizing the book of Ephesians; and it was not until **Ephesian 4:25** drilled into my head... and then into my heart... that I finally started to understand the Word.

19 The woman says to him, Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet / and now, notice how she ingeniously shifts the subject from a personal to a public question.

20 Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and you Jewish people say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship / and it is as if she asks: Which of us is right? Doubtless our Lord saw through her dodge; and yet Jesus stays with her, allowing her to sidestep... into her theological nit-picking.



Day of Salvation:

Day of Yeshua
Day of Jesus

21 Jesus says to her, Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when you will not in this mountain, nor at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Here following are 3... weighty pieces of information.

Point 1. The question raised will very soon cease to be important.

Point 2. The Samaritans are wrong, not only as to the place, but the whole grounds and nature of their worship, while in all these respects the truth resides with Judah.

22 You worship what you are not certain: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jewish people / so said, **Jesus** the Messiah; **Yeshua** whose name means: **salvation**, who for 2000 years is still rejected by many who are Jewish.

²³ **But the hour comes, and now is** / 400 years earlier prophet Malachi wrote: [From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, My name will be great among the goy](#) -- the **non-Jewish**. Israelites are also goy, nations and peoples; and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a pure offering: for My name will be great among the goy, says the Lord of hosts. And just an aside... 2,000 years later: I would ask our Jewish friends when that verse will be fulfilled? And what they are doing to make it so!

**But the hour now is, when the true worshipers
will worship the Father in spirit and in truth:
for the Father seeks such to worship Him.**

Point 3. As God is spirit, so He invites and insists a spiritual worship: which is not joyless hocus pocus.

²⁴ **God is Spirit: and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.**

Jesus answers her question; He pours light into her mind on what is true worship, and now speechless, she is at the place where He can disclose to her wondering mind, to whom she was all the while speaking.

²⁵ **The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ, when He has come, He will tell us all things** / in Greek: Christos... in Hebrew: mashiach... the Anointed, translated Christos from the Septuagint: a term embracing all the prophecies, all the promises from God beginning in the Garden of Eden... that one will come and crush the serpent's head, and destroy all that opposes God.

²⁶ **Jesus says to her, I who speak to you am He** / Jesus rarely said anything like this to His own people. What would not have been safe among them... was safe enough with her. What will she now say? We listen, the scene has changed, a new party arrives having bought bread, and on their return they are astonished at the company their Lord has been holding in their absence. It's funny!

²⁷ **And then His disciples came, and marveled that He talked with a woman: yet no one said to her, What are you looking for? or to Him, Why are you talking with her?** / it is one of those awkward moments in scripture Jesus certainly enjoyed... as everybody, but Himself... was uncomfortable... being drawn from their comfort zone. And now with all these strangers, it was time for the woman to go.

²⁸ **Then the woman left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and said to the men** / without this vital pot you could not rehydrate and be refreshed, this little detail speaks volumes... especially since we know the rest of the story,

²⁹ **Come with me, see a man, who told me all I ever did: Can this be the Christ?** / is this the Messiah?

³⁰ **Then they went out of the city, and came to Him.**

While the Samaritan woman is absent,

³¹ **In the meanwhile His disciples requested Him, saying, Teacher, eat.**

³² **But He said to them, I have food to eat that you do **not** know about.**

³³ **So the disciples said one to another, Did anyone bring Him something to eat?**

³⁴ **Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work / bringing many to redemption; made in His image and His likeness; and did He see a crowd approaching?**

³⁵ **Do **not** say, There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Pay attention, I say to you, Lift up your eyes / just like Abraham, our father of faith; get up now! Start walking! **and look on the fields; for they are ready to harvest** / don't say: we need to schedule a quarterly committee meeting and get this on the agenda; Dr. Dallas Willard said, Don't pray half-heartedly for the Spirit to guide; He has been ready to help for the last 2,000 years!**

³⁶ **And he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit to life eternal: that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together / someday in eternity we will meet those we worked for and gathered to join the harvest; some plant, some water, but God gives the increase; and to Him be the glory.**

³⁷ **Here is a true saying, One plants, and another reaps / Amos the prophet wrote: Behold, the days come, says the Lord, the plowman will overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows the seed -- **Amos 9**. Amos says: Get out there and stumble over each other!**

³⁸ **I sent you to reap where you did not labor, others labored, and you entered their labors / Jesus says, Go to all the world; it is not necessary to look for that good and perfect parcel of turf where nobody else has worked; to call your own. Look from where you are right now! Start there! And get going!**

³⁹ **And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, who testified, He told me all that I ever did.**

⁴⁰ **So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them: / and it seems that they were glad if He would just stay with them a few moments... and help answer their many questions...**and He stayed there two days.****

⁴¹ **And many more believed, because of **His word**;**

⁴² **And said to the woman, Now we believe, **not** because of your saying: for **we heard Him ourselves**, and know He is indeed the Christ / the Messiah, the Savior / in Greek: soter; the deliverer, those who lived under roman occupation knew that old caesar in Rome insisted he was the only savior of the empire. Obviously, these Samaritans after 2 days of lively interaction discovered that old guy in Rome was wrong... and just talking with Jesus changed their thinking. And don't you get the impression from these Samaritans, who were despised by the smug of their day, that: no other christ; no vicar of christ; certainly no antichrist... but only **Jesus** who is **the Christ** was needed,**

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43 Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.

44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

A Nobleman's son is healed,

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and urged Him to come and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

48 Then Jesus said to him, Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.

49 The nobleman said to Him, Sir, come down before my child dies!

50 Jesus said to him, Go your way; your son lives. So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, Your son lives!

52 Then he inquired of them the hour he got better. And they said to him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at the same time Jesus said to him, Your son lives. And he himself believed, and his whole household.

54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come from Judea to Galilee.

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