

## John 4:1-30 – Living Water and True Worship

Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well is a treasure. The conversation is a great illustration of John 1:14. Jesus was full of grace and truth. He asked for a drink of ordinary water. He offered living water. The offer was not made to one of the wealthy Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. He made the offer to a Samaritan woman of questionable character. At the same time, when the woman brought up Jewish worship versus Samaritan worship, Jesus spoke the truth. He didn't say that both ways of worship were fine. He said that the Samaritans worshiped what they did not know. In the terms of Jeremiah 7:9, Jesus was calling the Samaritans idolaters.

**Read John 4:1-30.**

Where was Jesus' next planned destination? Why did he want to leave where he was? Why did Jesus need to go through Samaria? (4: 1, 3-4)

Why do you think John made a special point of saying that Jesus did not personally baptize anyone? (4:2)

Where did Jesus stop for a rest? What was the historic significance of the place? (4:5-6)

While Jesus was resting at the well and his disciples were going to buy food, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water at noon. Jesus' request seemed reasonable. Since the Samaritan woman had something to draw water from the well, he asked her for a drink. How did the Samaritan woman response to Jesus' request? Why did she respond this way? (4:7-9)

Jesus told the woman that he could offer her living water. What did Jesus mean by "living water"? What conditions needed to be met before he would give the living water? (4:10)

The Samaritan woman's response might remind us of Nicodemus' response to Jesus. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' gracious offer? What was the source of the woman's pride? (4:11-12)

How was Jesus superior to Jacob and Jacob's well? (4:13-14)

When Jesus told the woman more about the water he could give, how did the woman respond? Like Nicodemus, the woman didn't understand what Jesus was saying. How did the woman reveal that she did not understand Jesus' offer of water? (4:15)

Why did Jesus ask the woman to bring her husband and return to the well? (4:16-19)

Based on verses 16-19, what is revealed about the woman at the well? What is revealed about Jesus? Does Jesus condemn the woman? What does the woman think about Jesus?

The woman reminds me of some people who are uncomfortable talking about spiritual things. The woman may not have been well versed in the scriptures but she had a religious question to ask Jesus. The dilemma someone might present today is "Why are there so many church denominations? Which one is right?" What did Jesus teach about worship? What did Jesus teach about God? What did Jesus say about Samaritan worship versus Jewish worship? (4:19-24)

I think that the woman knew that she could not keep up a spiritual discussion with Jesus. She didn't agree with Jesus and she didn't disagree with Jesus. I think she tried to get out of the discussion by saying that when the Messiah came, he would explain everything. The implication was that people have different opinions but the Messiah would set everyone straight. She didn't know who she was talking to. What did Jesus reveal to her about himself? (4:25-26)

What happened in verses 27-30? Did the woman think that Jesus was the Christ? Compare and contrast the Samaritan woman and Nicodemus. Think about their backgrounds, when they met Jesus, how they met and how they reacted.

What can we learn from Jesus about talking to non-believers about the Gospel?