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A Well of Good News John 4 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

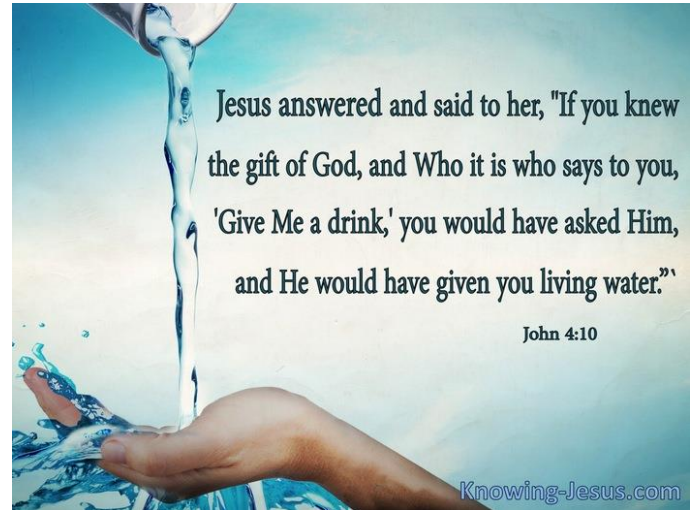
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In John Chapter 4 Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. At first the woman is surprised that Jesus would speak to her. She does not understand His love and grace shown to all people. Then when He reveals that He knows her past she tries to find some beliefs to separate them. Jesus continues to reach out to her, and she ultimately believes that He might be the Messiah. After bringing many people from the town, they believe in Jesus, and ask Him to stay a few days. Join us this week as we talk about how Jesus approached a women, showing compassion, in the least likely of scenarios.



Departure From Judea

4 Now when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that he was winning and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), ³ he left Judea and set out once more for Galilee.

Conversation With a Samaritan Woman

⁴ But he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ Now he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, so Jesus, since he was tired from the journey, sat right down beside the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ (For his disciples had gone off into the town to buy supplies.) ⁹ So the Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you—a Jew—ask me, a Samaritan woman, for water to drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said to him, "you have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do you get this living water? ¹² Surely you're not greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? For he gave us this well and drank from it himself, along with his sons and his livestock."

¹³ Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." 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." ¹⁶ He said to her, "Go call your husband and come back here." ¹⁷ The woman replied, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "Right you are when you said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. This you said truthfully!"

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You people worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (the one called Christ); "whenever he comes, he will tell us everything." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

The Disciples Return

²⁷ Now at that very moment his disciples came back. They were shocked because he was speaking with a woman. However, no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went off into the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come,

see a man who told me everything I ever did. Surely he can't be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ So they left the town and began coming to him.

Workers for the Harvest

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³ So the disciples began to say to one another, "No one brought him anything to eat, did they?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Don't you say, 'There are four more months and then comes the harvest?' I tell you, look up and see that the fields are already white for harvest! ³⁶ The one who reaps receives pay and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps can rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this instance the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you did not work for; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

The Samaritans Respond

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the report of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they began asking him to stay with them. He stayed there two days, ⁴¹ and because of his word many more believed. ⁴² They said to the woman, "No longer do we believe because of your words, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this one really is the Savior of the world."

Onward to Galilee

⁴³ After the two days he departed from there to Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him because they had seen all the things he had done in Jerusalem at the feast (for they themselves had gone to the feast).

Healing the Royal Official's Son

⁴⁶ Now he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had made the water wine. In Capernaum there was a certain royal official whose son was sick. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come back from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and begged him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders you will never believe!" ⁴⁹ "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus told him, "Go home; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and set off for home.

⁵¹ While he was on his way down, his slaves met him and told him that his son was going to live. ⁵² So he asked them the time when his condition began to improve, and they told him, "Yesterday at one o'clock in the afternoon the fever left him." ⁵³ Then the father realized that it was the very time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he himself believed along with his entire household. ⁵⁴ Jesus did this as his second miraculous sign when he returned from Judea to Galilee.

① EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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10.

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink?

2. Why would Jesus offer living water knowing she would not understand what He is offering?

3. How does Jesus describe the true worshiper?

4. How does the woman convince people to come see Jesus?

5. What did Jesus mean by the fields are ready for harvest?

6. Why did the Samaritans believe in Jesus?

7. Why does the royal official ask Jesus for help?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

8. What can we learn from the Samaritan Woman's eagerness to tell others about Jesus?

9. What is the main idea of this passage?

10. How can you apply this passage this week?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes