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John 4
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

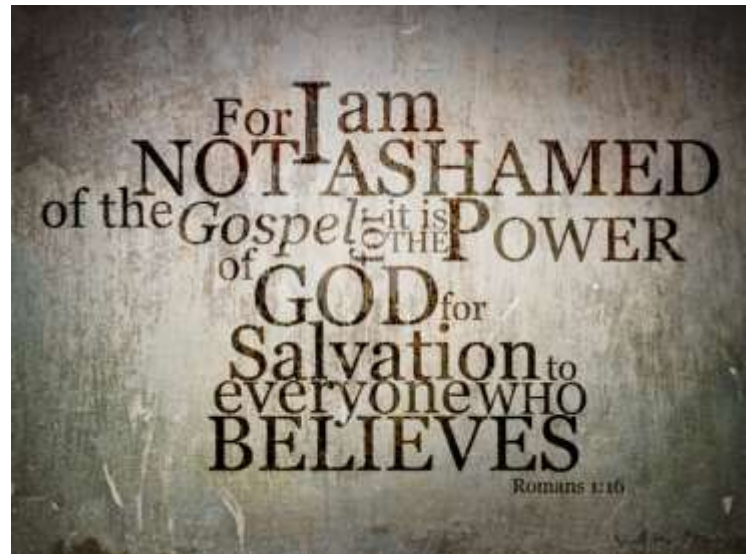
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

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.



This week we will take a look at a familiar passage in the gospel of John. John chapter 4 gives us the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. This is a very important passage for many reasons. In this study we will consider the heart of Christ and what He shows us as our number one priority and purpose here on earth. Jesus shows tremendous grace toward the woman who has clearly struggled in her personal relationships. But even more important, Jesus shows us what it is that gives Him energy. He desires above all to do the will of the Father and to share the saving message of the Kingdom of God.



Read John 4:1-54 (NET)

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.

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.

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."

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."

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).

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.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

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

What does God MEAN?

8. Why were the disciples surprised that Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman? (4:27)

9. What did Jesus mean by His statement that He has food that His disciple did not know about?
(4:32)

10. Why do you think Jesus talked about the living water when He knew the woman would not understand what He was talking about? (4:10)

11. What does Jesus mean by having worshipers that worship in spirit and in truth? (4:23)

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. What are some examples of people groups today that we could reach out to that might surprise some other people in the church?

13. a. What was the will of God that Jesus must accomplish? (4:34)?

b. What is the will of God for our lives?

c. What should we seek to accomplish above all other things?

14. Please spend time praying for opportunities to share the Word of God just as the disciples had opportunity in Samaria. Also please pray for opportunities to share Christ at our upcoming soccer camp and for God to bring children with open and expecting hearts.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

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

SERMON NOTES