

Lesson 3

THE WATER OF LIFE

(JOHN 4-5)

Outline of John Chapters 4-5

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THE MINISTRY AT SAMARIA

The Woman At The Well

In the last chapter we learned how Jesus dealt personally with *one man*. What was his name (John 3:1)? _____ In John Chapter 4 we learn how Jesus dealt personally with *one woman*. Her name is not given. She is called "the woman of _____ (John 4:9) or the Samaritan woman.

Jesus and His disciples were on a journey from Judea to Galilee, and to get to Galilee they had to pass through _____ (John 4:4). Can you find these three places on a Bible map? Notice how Samaria is right between Judea and Galilee.

When Jesus came to Jacob's well, the Bible says He was "_____ with His journey" (John 4:6). Does God ever get weary or tired (Isaiah 40:28)? _____ But God the Son came in the flesh (see John 1:14), and as a man He did grow weary because of the miles He had walked. It was about the "sixth hour" (John 4:6). If John (the writer of this gospel) was using Jewish time, this would mean that it was about noon (LUNCH TIME). However, it is more likely that John was using Roman time (similar to our system of reckoning time), which means that it would have been 6:00 p.m. (SUPPER TIME). Not only was Jesus tired and weary but He was probably very hungry and thirsty as well. Where had the disciples gone (John 4:8)? _____ They were hungry also and wanted to buy some supper!

If we had been Jesus on this day we might have said something like this: *"I'm very tired from this journey. All I care about is resting and enjoying some supper alone with a nice cool glass of water!"* The Lord Jesus was hungry and tired and thirsty, but He was more concerned about a certain woman than He was about resting or filling His stomach. What was more important to Him, doing God's will or having supper (John 4:34)? _____

Did the woman speak first to Jesus or did Jesus first speak to the woman (John 4:7)? _____ He started the conversation, and what He said really surprised the woman. She was amazed that He even spoke to her! Jesus did something unusual-- something which most Jews would never have done. Why was she surprised that He spoke to her and asked her for a drink (John 4:9)? _____

_____ The Jews hated the Samaritans but Jesus loved this woman. Jesus was concerned for her soul and He dared to be different and to act differently than other Jews. Even today as Christians, people need to see a difference in the way we act and live. They need to see that we have a concern and a compassion that reaches out to *all men*. There might be a person in your school that hardly anyone likes or that the other students shun because for some reason he seems different from them. You can reach out to this person even as Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman.

As they continued talking, Jesus said some things that really made this woman curious. First He told her that He would have given her _____ water (John 4:10). She needed to know WHO JESUS REALLY WAS and she needed to know that God had a gift for her (John 4:10). She must have been puzzled: "He asked me for water, and now He says that He has water to give to me." She could not understand how Jesus could have water or where He could get it from (John 4:11).

She then asked, "Art Thou greater than our father _____" (John 4:12). She knew that this was a famous well because Jacob had once used it many hundreds of years earlier. Again Jesus surprised her with His answer. He explained to her that His well was much better than Jacob's well:

Whoever drinks from Jacob's well will _____ again (John 4:13). The water that comes from a well (physical water) can quench a person's thirst for a while, but later that person will be thirsty again. Can you think of any kind of beverage that can be bought at a store which a person can drink from and never be thirsty again? _____ Food and water only satisfy for a time. This is why we must eat and drink every day.

2) Jesus' well (JOHN 4:14).

The person who drinks from Jesus' well "shall never _____" (John 4:14). That person will have a WELL in him that will never run dry! It is a well which springs up "into _____" (John 4:14). Of course, Jesus was talking about a different kind of water. He was not talking about water for the body (PHYSICAL WATER--H₂O), but He was talking about water for the soul (SPIRITUAL WATER).

Just as the body has a thirst that must be satisfied by water, so the soul has a thirst that must be satisfied. People try to satisfy their soul with pleasures and money and entertainment and many other things, but none of these things really satisfy the deep thirst that is in man. Only GOD can satisfy this thirst and He can satisfy it forever.

How can a person drink of the water that Jesus gives? What must a person do in order to "never thirst" (John 6:35)? _____

Did the Samaritan woman want the water that Jesus had (John 4:15)? _____ Like this woman, people need to understand that Jesus has what they need. There is a great Saviour and a great salvation, and this is just what people desperately need.

The Samaritan woman was not yet ready to drink from the living water that Jesus offered her, because she did not yet fully realize her need. Was this woman a righteous woman or a sinful woman (John 4:16-19)? _____ Did Jesus know all about her? _____ Jesus very carefully showed this woman and reminded this woman about her sin (John 4:16-19). She had been divorced again and again and she was now living with a man that she was not even married to (John 4:18).

Just as people need water to live and exist physically, so also people need GOD and His gift of eternal life so that they might have spiritual life and have their deepest needs satisfied (John 4:10,14). The Lord Jesus Christ came to save sin-sick people (see 1 Timothy 1:15 and John 3:17)! Before a person can be saved, he must first realize that *sin separates a person from the living God*. He must then realize that Christ died on the cross to take care of the sin problem (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18). This Samaritan woman needed to see her NEED OF THE SAVIOUR. As Jesus showed the Samaritan woman, so also we need to show people GOD'S WONDERFUL PROVISION FOR THEIR NEED. God is a GREAT SAVIOUR and God has a GREAT GIFT for sinners! God's wonderful invitation to men is this: COME AND DRINK! Compare Revelation 22:17; John 6:35; Isaiah 55:1.

The woman of Samaria then changed the subject and started talking about worship (John 4:20). Jesus gave her a brief but important lesson about worship (John 4:21-24). It is not so much WHERE a person worships but it is WHO and HOW a person worships that really counts! How does God want people to worship Him (John 4:24)? _____

The Samaritans hoped that someday the Messiah (the promised Saviour-King) would come to earth (John 4:25). What amazing truth did Jesus reveal to this woman about Himself (John 4:25-26)?

The Disciples Learn A Lesson

Finally the disciples returned from town with the supper they had bought. Were they surprised and amazed to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman (John 4:27)? _____ After the woman went her way the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Master, _____ (John 4:31).

They knew Jesus was hungry and they wanted Him to have supper! Jesus wanted to use this occasion as an opportunity to teach His disciples something. The only thing they had on their minds was FOOD! They were hungry and they wanted to eat! Jesus wanted to teach them that there is something even more important than food! Food is important and man cannot live without food, but there is also something more important than food! Notice what Jesus told them in John 4:32 (the word "meat" means "food"). This puzzled the disciples! Jesus had puzzled the Samaritan woman and now we see that He also puzzled His own disciples! "How could Jesus have food? Has any man brought Him anything to _____?" (see John 4:33).

Jesus was not talking about the kind of food they were thinking about. They were thinking about food for the stomach. Jesus was talking about a much more important kind of food. What kind of "meat" or food was Jesus talking about? What did Jesus hunger for more than anything else (John 4:34)?

Jesus wanted His disciples to look beyond physical needs and see spiritual needs (see John 4:35-38). A person's physical needs are important. Man cannot survive without proper food and drink and clothing. But a person's spiritual needs are far more important.

Have you ever seen pictures of starving children? Do they have real physical needs? _____ Suppose a person brings these starving children enough food to fill their stomachs for years, but never tells them about Jesus Christ and their need to be saved. Are these children going to die someday? _____ If they are not saved will they spend forever and ever in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15; 21:8)? _____ Food is important, but do you see how there is something much more important? What is more important---what happens to the body or what happens to the soul (Matthew 10:28)? _____ Jesus wanted the disciples to lift up their eyes (John 4:35) and begin to see SPIRITUAL NEEDS all around them! We need to learn the same lesson. Do you know people with real spiritual needs? Do you know people who need to be saved?

Many Samaritans Believe

Someone might think, "Why is it so important to talk to just one person about spiritual things? It might be important to talk to 20 or 50 or 100 people, but why spend time with just one person?" The answer to this is found in John 4:39. The Lord Jesus took the time to talk to ONE WOMAN, and look what happened: "MANY of the Samaritans of that city _____ on Him" (John 4:39). The time He spent with this one person paid off greatly. Because of this MANY Samaritans came to Him and He was able to spend _____ days with them (John 4:40)! And then "MANY MORE _____" (John 4:41)! Sometimes if we are faithful to do the little things (like talking to just one person), God will bless it and turn it into big things!

What did the Samaritans learn about Jesus Christ (see John 4:42)? (circle the correct answer)

- a. He was the Saviour only of the Jews but not of the Samaritans.
- b. He was the Saviour only of a few people.
- c. He was the Saviour of the world (all men everywhere).
- d. He was the Saviour of the disciples and no one else.

THE MIRACLES JESUS PERFORMED

His Second Miracle

Jesus' first miracle was performed in Cana of Galilee when He turned the water into wine (John 2:1,9). His second Galilean miracle was performed in the same city (John 4:46 and compare verse 54).

A certain nobleman had a son who was sick, and this concerned father thought that Jesus could help (John 4:46). How sick was this boy (John 4:47)? _____ What was wrong with him (John 4:52)? _____ What two things did the nobleman ask Jesus to do (John 4:47)? 1) _____ 2) _____

As we shall see, Jesus would do the second but not the first. Jesus did not want this man to have a faith that was based on SIGHT (John 4:48). He wanted him to have a faith that was based on God's Word plus nothing! Jesus just spoke the word, and He expected this man to believe it. Jesus said, "GO THY WAY, YOUR SON LIVES!" (see John 4:50).

Did Jesus "come down" with the nobleman as the nobleman had asked (John 4:49-52)?

_____ At first the nobleman must have thought that Jesus needed to be physically present in order to heal his son. But when Jesus said, "THY SON LIVETH" the nobleman _____ the word that Jesus had spoken" (John 4:50). Did Jesus give him any "signs" or "miracles" which he could see with his eyes? _____ All he had was Jesus' word and nothing else, and that is what he believed! Did the words of Jesus come to pass just as Jesus had said (compare John 4:50 with 4:51)? When did the boy start getting well (see John 4:52-53)?

This miracle clearly demonstrated the power of Christ: 1) He was able to heal a boy who was at the point of death even though He was miles away from the one who was sick; 2) He was able to heal this boy just by the power of His spoken Word plus nothing! We are reminded of Psalm 33:9--"For He spoke and it was _____; He commanded and it _____ fast." God does not want us to believe because we have *seen*; God wants us to believe because He has said!

The Impotent Man Healed

The first part of John Chapter 5 tells us about another great healing miracle. What city did this miracle take place in (John 5:1-2) _____ There was a pool in this city where a variety of sick folk would gather. Some were blind, some were lame and some were paralyzed (John 5:3). They were hoping to be cured by the waters of this pool (John 5:4).

The man Jesus healed is described in John 5:5. He is also called an "impotent" man (John 5:7) which means that he was "without (physical) strength." How long had this man been an invalid (John 5:5)? _____

What was the very first thing Jesus asked this man (John 5:6)?

_____ This means, "Do you want to be healed?" This man wanted to be healed but he did not have very much hope that it would ever happen (see John 5:7). Apparently these sick people had reason to believe that when the waters in the pool were troubled or stirred up, only the first person into the pool would be healed (John 5:4,7). This man did not think that he would ever be able to get there first unless someone could help him. Little did he know that Jesus could heal him INSTANTLY without even using the waters in the pool!

Again Jesus merely SPOKE THE WORD: "Rise (get up), take up thy bed, and _____" (John 5:8). Did it take the man 5 minutes or 5 hours or 5 days to get healed (John 5:9)? He was healed I _____ (John 5:9), just as Jesus had said!

THE MEANNESS OF THE JEWS

On what day did this amazing miracle take place (John 5:9-10)? _____ The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week (Saturday), a day on which the Jews were not to do any work.

What did the Jews think about this wonderful miracle which Jesus had done? Did they think it was wonderful that this impotent and weak man could be instantly healed? Did they thank God that a man who was an invalid for 38 years could now walk as well as a healthy man? Were they GLAD, SAD or MAD (John 5:16)? _____ Were they grateful to Jesus for the great thing He had done (John 5:16)? _____ They were angry at the impotent man because he carried his bed on the Sabbath (John 5:10) and they were angry at Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath (John 5:16)! Jesus then said something that made them even more angry: "My _____ worketh hitherto, and I _____ (John 5:17). Jesus was saying that God was His F _____ and therefore He was the SON of God. Because of this the Jews wanted to KILL Him (John 5:18). They thought that it was blasphemy for a mere man to call God His Father!

Today someone might say, "I believe that Jesus was the Son of God. I do *not* believe that Jesus is God. He is *not* God, He is merely the Son of God." But this person does not really understand what Jesus meant when He said that He was the SON OF GOD. In the days when Jesus walked this earth, when a person said, "God is my Father" he was "making himself _____ with God" (John 5:18). When Jesus claimed that He was the SON OF GOD He was really saying, "I AM EQUAL WITH GOD. I AND MY FATHER ARE _____" (John 10:30). This is why the Jews wanted to kill Jesus! In their unbelief and meanness they wanted to put Him to death! And what were His great crimes? 1) He healed a man on the Sabbath (JOHN 5:9); 2) He said that God was His Father (JOHN 5:18).

THE MATCHLESS SON OF GOD

In John 5:19-30 Jesus speaks about Himself and His relationship to the Father. How many times do you find the word "SON" in these verses? _____ How many times do you find the word "FATHER"? _____ In these verses we learn several wonderful things about the matchless Son of God:

1. He gives life (John 5:21).

The word "quickeneth" means "gives life." The Son is the One who gives life to whom He will. In John 5:24 we learn that He gives everlasting life to those who believe. According to John 5:24, what are 3 things that are true of everyone who believes:

- 1) He has everlasting _____.
- 2) He shall not come into condemnation (or judgment).
- 3) He is passed from _____ unto _____.

If you have done the first part of John 5:24, then these three things are true about you!

2. He is the Judge of all men (John 5:22,27).

The Father "hath committed all _____ unto the _____" (John 5:22). All men must someday stand before Jesus Christ, the perfect Judge and the perfect Man. "He is the Son of _____ (John 5:27). No one will ever be able to say, "The Judge does not know what we go through as men. He does not know what it is like being in our shoes!" No, the Judge is the SON OF MAN! He was and is a true man just like us! No man is better qualified to be the JUDGE!

3. He is to be honored just as the Father is honored (John 5:23).

The Father and the Son should both be honored! What if a person says, "I believe in God the Father, but I do not believe in Jesus." Is this person honoring the Son? _____ "He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father" (John 5:23). Those who hate Jesus really hate the Father also! If you want to find out what a person thinks about God (the Father), ask them to tell you what they think about Christ!

4. He has the power to bring forth the dead on resurrection day (John 5:28-29).

Suppose you were to go to a cemetery and cry out with a loud voice, "Listen all of you dead people. I want you to come out of the graves!" If you were to do this, do you think anything would happen? When it comes to bringing people out of their graves, we are very helpless and powerless!

But when those in the graves hear Christ's voice the Bible says that they "shall come forth" (John 5:29)! Jesus mentions two resurrections here: 1) the resurrection of _____ (this is for saved people); 2) the resurrection of _____ (this is for unsaved people).

THE MANY WITNESSES POINTING TO JESUS

In Deuteronomy 19:15 we read, "at the mouth of two _____ or at the mouth of three _____ shall the matter be established." Was Jesus Christ really the Son of God? Was He really the promised Messiah, the King of the Jews? Was He really everything He claimed to be? Jesus had several witnesses that pointed to the fact that He was just what He said He was! We learn about these witnesses in John 5:31-47:

Witness #1--John the Baptist (John 5:31-35).

John the Baptist clearly pointed to Jesus Christ as we have already studied. John was a faithful witness (John 5:33), burning and shining brightly for the Lord (John 5:35).

Witness #2--The Works Jesus Did (John 5:36).

The changing of water into wine, the amazing healing of the nobleman's son, the healing of the impotent man—all of these miracles pointed clearly to the fact that Jesus Christ was none other than the Son of God.

Witness #3--The Father (John 5:37-38).

"And the _____ Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne _____ of Me" (John 5:37). God the Father was another Witness who pointed to Christ. But did the Jews believe in the One that the Father sent (John 5:38)? _____ God sent His beloved Son into the world, but for the most part men rejected Him and "received Him not" (John 1:11).

Witness #4--The Scriptures (John 5:39-44).

Jesus told these Jews to "search the _____" (John 5:39) because the Scriptures are another witness that points clearly to Christ. The Jews had the Old Testament Scriptures (the 39 Books) and in these books God promised that He would send the Messiah. The Old Testament Books clearly pointed to Christ but the Jews still rejected Him when He came into the world : "and ye will not _____ to Me, that ye might have _____" (John 5:40). Christ was willing to give them LIFE but they were unwilling to come to Him! "I am come in my Father's Name, and ye _____ Me _____" (John 5:43).

Witness #5--Moses (John 5:45-47).

The Jews knew of no man greater than Moses. He was the great lawgiver and the man who led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses was also a WITNESS who pointed to Christ because Moses "wrote of _____" (John 5:46). Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible and these books pointed clearly to Jesus Christ. For example, in Deuteronomy 18:15-19 Moses wrote about the great Prophet who would come. This Prophet was none other than Jesus Christ.

THEREFORE, those who reject Jesus Christ must also...

- 1)...reject John the Baptist and his ministry**
- 2)...ignore the miracles that Jesus did**
- 3)...reject God the Father's witness and His Word**
- 4)...disbelieve the Old Testament Scriptures**
- 5)...refuse to believe what Moses wrote**

What about *you*? Jesus Christ is the WATER OF LIFE! He wants to give you LIFE! He wants to satisfy you forever so that you will NEVER THIRST! Have you come to Him or do you refuse to come to Him (see John 5:40)?

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

10 "MUSTS" IF I AM TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

1. I must be born again.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:3,7).

The person who is not born again cannot understand God's Word:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14).

2. I must desire to know the truth as found in God's Word.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

3. I must desire to DO God's will.

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do His will, He shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself" (John 7:16-17).

4. I must desire to GROW.

"As newborn babes, DESIRE the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2).

5. I must obey the truth that I already know.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

6. I must be a DOER of the Word and not a hearer only.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

7. I must not only learn Christ's commandments but I must learn to observe (keep) His commandments.

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:20).

8. I must take heed not only to the doctrine but to MYSELF.

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16 and see also Acts 20:28).

9. I must understand that Bible study is hard work.

"STUDY (be diligent, make every effort) to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

10. I must realize that understanding is a gift from the Lord and thus I need to be right with the Lord and spiritually prepared and ready to receive understanding from Him.

"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things...Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (1 Timothy 2:7; James 1:21).