

Jesus Christ, the Living Water

John 4:1-23

The Situation in Samaria (John 4:1-6) Samaritans mixed religious practices of Israel with a spin of pagan practices of the Assyrians. Recorded in 2 Kings 17 and Ezra 4 speaks to how a Jewish priest came to the reign to teach them, yet they formed their own religion mixed with Judaism. The Samaritans were so looked down upon by most Jews so much so that when the Jewish people were traveling, they would take the long way around Samaria instead of going through it. They would end up crossing the Jordan river twice instead of going directly through Samaria. From Jerusalem to Galilee through Samaria, according to Josephus, was three days' journey on the shortest most direct route. The book of Ezra speaks to this hatred of the Samaritans when they wanted to help in rebuilding the temple, yet the Jewish people would not allow them to. It was a radical statement when you Jesus charged believers in **Acts 1:8** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* The very reason we are charged to go to those people and places that are most uncomfortable and are most unfavorable is because God is not worshiped in those places in spirit and truth. We are charged to the Great Commission; therefore, there is no place for racism and personal preferences in the Kingdom in order to accomplish this task. Jesus was at the right place at the right time to minister to a person who felt like a social outcast. We've seen this throughout the New Testament. Jesus loves and shows compassion upon the socially outcast, the leper, the demon possessed, the prostitute, and the lame. God has placed us where we are for a season to share His glory, regardless of their or our situation.

The Satisfaction for Spiritual Thirst (John 4:7-15) I have mentioned a few times the quote from the French mathematician and physicist, Blaise Pascal. "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Jesus is the living water, our satisfaction for spiritual thirst. We tend to find the quench for that thirst in things other than Christ. In Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, King Solomon shares that he has tried to quench this thirst through self-centered desires instead of through God. Listen to his insight: *"And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."* The Samaritan woman is culturally and customarily taken back that a Jewish man would ask her, a Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Verse 9 clearly shows this, *"for Jews have no dealings with Samaritans."* Jesus often taught using illustrations, knowing His audience, and knowing their individual needs. Listen to verses 14 and 15. Our true satisfaction can only come through Jesus Christ.

The Solution to Salvation (John 4:16-23) Jesus gives her hope, but sometimes hope can only come when they find out that they really have a problem with sin.

- a. Everyone has sinned and needs Jesus to save them. (vv.16-18) Jesus is just pointing out her sinfulness, that serial relationships with men are symptomatic of a heart thirst that physical water cannot quench or heal. The satisfaction can only be found in the living water of Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23-24.
- b. Everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved. (vv.21-23) After the northern kingdom fell to Assyria in 721 BC, the split between those Jews living in Jerusalem and those Jews living in Samaria became even wider. In verse 22 Jesus is stating that salvation comes only through the Messiah, the royal line of David, the southern kingdom of Judah. He, Jesus, the Messiah will in fact remove the division between Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. The temple worship will be superseded through Christ! Jesus said, “the hour is coming, and is now here...” meaning Jesus is present and has begun the work of the Holy Spirit coming to establish the New Testament Church that we see clearly in the book of Acts. Everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved is a paraphrase of Romans 10:13 “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Application:

- Everyone needs the gospel!
- Those who are different than us or that make you feel uncomfortable need Christ too!
- Our satisfaction can only be found in Christ alone!
- There is an urgency for the world to hear of Jesus, because not every nation worships Jesus!