

The Gospel of John

4:1-15

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

This week we get started in chapter four.

✠ **John 4:1-3** *Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.*

First off as we mentioned in past studies, Jesus did not baptize anyone as stated here, but rather His disciples did. Why would this be?

We'll think about it, if some of the people were baptized with water by Jesus, they would boast saying that their baptism was better than others because they were baptized by Jesus.

Jesus doesn't baptize with water but He does baptize with the Holy Spirit.

✠ **Mark 1:8** *"I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

This is John the Baptist speaking here, and something very interesting to note is that this is said in all four of the gospels.

Matt 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16 & John 1:33

That means that this is very important to note, since all four gospels mention it. Baptism with water is good and we should all be baptized as Christians, but being baptized with the Holy Spirit by Jesus is what empowers you to walk as a believer.

✠ **Acts 1:4-5** *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "**which,**" He said, "**you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**"*

✠ **Acts 2:38-39** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

✠ **Acts 8:14-17** *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the*

name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

† **Titus 3:4-6** *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

We won't get into the baptism of the Holy Spirit here in this study, but if you are interested in this subject, then I would encourage you to go to the studies on the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

Also when you are reading these opening verses in chapter 4 you may think or wonder why is Jesus leaving? Is He afraid of the Pharisees? We know Jesus wasn't afraid of them, but I think (this is my own personal opinion) that Jesus was tired of arguing with them. He would speak words of life to them, but they refused to listen. Just as He spoke of on the Sermon on the Mount.

† **Matt 7:6** *Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

So what does this mean?

It means not to take something precious and offer it to someone who could care less about it. Pigs have no idea how valuable and beautiful pearls are. To them it's just something to eat or walk all over in the mud. It was the same way with the Pharisees. Jesus offered them the words of eternal life; God's word, and they refused it and cast it off as nothing.

We need to be careful when we witness to others, not to be throwing God's precious word around to those who want nothing to do with it.

Does that mean that we don't witness or share God's word with everyone? No, we should witness and share God's word with everyone. But Jesus also gave his disciples instructions about those who would accept His word and those who wouldn't.

Matt 10:13-15 *If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!*

If people don't want to hear it, just keep walking or walk away. We can't force people to believe in Jesus, nor should we force Jesus on anyone or even our lifestyle.

A pig's lifestyle is to stay in the mud, just as the world's lifestyle is to stay in the filth of the world. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can someone come out of that lifestyle, which we all were in before we were saved.

The Holy Spirit is also a gentleman, He will NOT force Himself or Jesus on anyone, and so we shouldn't either. Only God can save and change a person's heart, not us!

So Jesus now leaves Judea and heads towards Galilee

✠ John 4:3-6 *He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

So Jesus leaves and His journey takes Him through Samaria also known as Sychar or in the Old Testament you will find it called "Shechem" about thirty-four miles from Jerusalem.

Did Jesus know that He would have to go through Samaria, and did He know what was going to happen with the woman at the well?

I don't know. It is possible that God told Jesus to go that way and what would happen when He got there. But it's also possible that He didn't. How's that for an answer.

You could also safely say that Jesus was taking a short cut to go to Galilee.

It wasn't really a short cut, but rather Jews would take the long way around going twice as far to get to Galilee, just to avoid Samaria.

So Jesus stops in a city of Samaria where Jacob's well was.

What is Jacob's well? If you will remember in our study in Genesis, Jacob (Israel) sent his son Joseph there to find his brothers but they weren't there and they were found in Dothan. This was where Joseph's brother wanted to kill him, but instead threw him in a pit and then sold him to the Midianites.

† Gen 37:12-17 *Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am." Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.*

This was also the place where God spoke to Abram (Abraham) promising him the land.

† **Gen 12:6-7** *Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

With all this in mind, I find it interesting that the Jews wouldn't go there or avoided it.

✚ *Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

Did you notice something here in this verse? Did you notice that Jesus was wearied or tired from His walking?

So many times we make Jesus out to be a superman. Faster than a speeding bullet. Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, and so on.

But we seem to forget that Jesus was a man who got tired and weary just like we do.

If you read through the gospels you will read of many times when Jesus just needed to rest or get away from the crowd. He would get so drained from giving all the time, that He needed to stop and rest.

What about you, are you trying to be a Christian Superman or Superwoman? Do you just do and do never taking the time to rest? If Jesus needed to rest, don't you think you need it too! Even God rested after the six days of work creating the heavens and the earth.

God may have given you a family, and you should not neglect your time with them.

I've heard it said, and I agree, that if you spend more time watching TV then you do with God, then there is a problem. The same is true about your family. If you spend more time watching TV then with your family, then there is a problem.

So take time and rest and enjoy your family and time alone with the Lord. You will find that if you do, you will have more time and be able to do the other things the Lord has given you to do. If you don't you will find yourself spinning your wheels getting nowhere. Don't ask me how it works, it just something God does.

At the end of verse 6 it says; "***It was about the sixth hour.***"

So was this 6:00 and AM or PM?

Well, it's neither, it's actually 12:00 noon.

We also know this because only Jesus and the one woman were at the well, because women would only go to the wells in the morning and evening.

So why was she going at noon then instead of the other times when the other women were around? She was married five times and divorced five times and was currently not married and living with a man. Now a days, this is something too common in the world and especially in the US.

But we are getting ahead of the story here.

✠ **John 4:7-9** *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.*

Jesus asks this woman for a drink as she is drawing water from the well, and as we will read, Jesus had nothing to draw water with, that could be why He asked her.

The woman was also shocked that Jesus, a Jew, would talk to her, because she was a Samaritan. But I think she was even more shocked that Jesus spoke with her, since she knew what kind of a woman she was:

- A Samaritan from a mixed race.
- A woman known to be living in sin.

No respectable Jewish man would ever talk to someone like her in public.

But this woman was hurting. She was trying to find happiness in men or marriage, but just couldn't find it, that's why she married and divorced five times and probably gave up on marriage and was just living with a man.

How many people do you know who are trying to find happiness in the world, maybe by going out drinking and partying? They go from place to place each week trying to find happiness, but only find loneliness.

Maybe they go from man to man or woman to woman only to find empty relationships that don't last. Maybe they try to find happiness in shopping and spending money, they buy and buy, spend and spend but all to no avail. Some are workaholics unable to cope with the things of this world and all its heartaches, so they bury themselves in their jobs.

We all know what it's like to seek after the things of this world to find happiness. We also know that it's useless to find happiness in the world. Only through Jesus Christ can anyone find true peace and happiness!

Maybe you are one who has been looking for happiness in the world. I personally know what you are going through as I used to try to be accepted in the world, but only found loneliness, heartache and people who were not really my friends. Only until I came to Jesus did all of that change. He has given me a purpose in life and by no longer living the sinful life I used to, I am a better person for it. I no longer take advantage of people or use women for my pleasure. I don't seek after the things of the world, and if I want something I ask God, if He lets me have them, then it's a good thing for me, but not then I don't need it.

But the biggest change has happened inside of me, in my heart and mind. I see things in a whole new light, and that light is Jesus. You see when darkness is exposed to the light it flees because darkness wants nothing to do with the light.

In other words, those sinful things you have been holding onto will go away once Jesus is in your life. Sure they will try to come back, but then they have to answer to Jesus, who is my Lord and Savior.

Are you ready to stop seeking happiness in the world and ready to seek true happiness in Jesus Christ? This is not a temporary joy, but an eternal joy that you will always have, no matter what you are going through. This I also know personally.

Just ask Jesus to forgive you and He will, maybe with a prayer like this.

Jesus, I admit I am a sinner and I ask you to please forgive me for my sins. I no longer want to continue in my sins and turn from them and run to you. I have been seeking pleasure in this world and I ask You to forgive me. Please let me know the joy of You being my Lord and Savior. Thank You for dying for me and rising from the dead so I can spend eternity in Heaven with You. Please fill me to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit that I may tell others about You too. Thank You Jesus for all You have done for me. I love You and ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!

Now that's real joy!

✚ ***John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."***

Once again Jesus cuts straight to the chase and bypasses everything to meet her needs. Remember she was trying to find happiness to fill her empty life, and Jesus was now offering it to her.

✚ ***John 4:11-12 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"***

The woman heard Jesus, but she has been so focused on the material things of this world that she didn't comprehend that Jesus was talking about spiritual things or that He was here to help her.

✚ ***John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."***

Jesus now explains to her that He is not talking of the physical water from the well, but rather quenching the spiritual thirst within her.

† **Matt 5:6** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

In our study on the Holy Spirit, I gave a visual example of what it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Try it by following the example I gave:

Take a pitcher of water, a glass and a pie plate or regular plate.

The pitcher of water represents the Holy Spirit, the glass is you, and the plate is the world.

Right now the glass is empty, and as you place it on the plate we see ourselves in the world before Jesus came into our lives. We were empty and had nothing to offer others.

But when we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we take the pitcher of water and fill the glass to the top with water; we are now filled with the Holy Spirit. We are no longer empty, but we are also not affecting the world with the Holy Spirit in our lives.

But once we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we take the pitcher of water and start pouring into the glass, which is full, and the water now runs down the glass onto the plate.

That is how we allow the Holy Spirit to use us to affect the world.

Right now this woman is an empty glass, just sitting on the plate, or just another person struggling through life, empty and finding no meaning to life at all.

Jesus is now offering her this water of life that will affect the world.

✠ **John 4:15** *The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."*

But still she doesn't get it; she is still focused on the things of this world. That's what keeps people from Jesus Christ. They can hear the message of salvation, but are so worried about the things of this world, that it goes in one ear and out the other.

Jesus spoke of this in a parable.

Matt 13:3-9 & 18-23 *Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:*

"Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who

received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Can you see the woman in this parable?

Can you see yourself?

Unless you are bearing fruit from God's word, then you may fall into one of the other categories. If you do, then ask the Lord to show you those things that are preventing you from bearing fruit, and ask Him to remove them from your life.

So does she ever get it?

We will have to find out next week.

I pray you are enjoying this study in the book of John and you are growing closer to the Lord.

May God bless you and keep you in all your ways as you acknowledge Him!