

JOHN 4:11-26
LIVING WATER!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

In our study last time we looked at an encounter that Jesus had with a woman by the well in Samaria.

And it is an interesting story, because, for the Jews, it should have never happened. You see, the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans. They were half breeds in their minds. Part Jewish and part Gentile.

Also, Jews looked down upon women and for Jesus to talk to a woman and a Samaritan woman for that matter, was not kosher in their minds!

Not only were they looked down upon by the Jews, but the Jews would not even travel through Samaria, they would go around because they did not want the dust from Samaria to touch their feet.

And yet, listen to what we are told in John 4:3-4 about what Jesus did. We are told, “**He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria.**”

Again, Jesus did not have to go through Samaria, He could have bypassed the area like most Jews would do. But He had to go through Samaria, and many may wonder why, and the answer is really very simple.

He had to go through Samaria because He had to have this encounter with a woman at the well there in Samaria. Jesus was open to the direction of God the Father and He obeyed!

And as we will see this morning, this woman is searching. Her life was tough, not many of the women liked her because she was married five times and is living with a man right now. And, more than likely, some of these women knew her very well, she may have even taken some of their husband's!

So instead of going for water at the well when it was cooler, she went in the heat of the day and that would ensure that no other women would be there, no one would be there to give her a hard time. But Jesus was going to meet with this woman and what He had for her outshined anything that anyone in the world could give to her!

Let me touch on this for a minute.

God has placed in each of us certain drives and the reason for this is to give the human body health and to be able to survive.

Let me explain it like this.

First of all, there is the drive to breathe, we need air!

Try holding your breath and before long you will have to breathe because you have this inborn need for air.

Being a critical care nurse, I have seen this over and over again. For whatever the reason, someone who has low oxygen levels, they gasp for air. They pant for air. They will do everything possible to breathe and there are times we have to assist them by putting a breathing tube down into their throat and breathe for them. And once they have that need fulfilled, that air hunger is satisfied, they can relax!

That is the strongest drive we have, the air drive!

The next drive that we have is that for water.

Your body is made up of 60% water. In children it is about 75%!

You can only last a few days if you find yourself in intense heat, but a little bit longer if the situation is better.

So after air, water is an important drive that we have because our body needs us to replace the water we lose every day!

Next is the drive for food. Okay, I guess I don't need to go into depth on this one. We will drive anywhere at any time for food. I think we have this one down!

And this is one that many don't think of, but the sleep drive is very important for the health of the body.

And, of course, there is the sex drive to keep the human race going and God has given it to us to enjoy, a husband and his wife!

And we can go on, but you get the idea, from the most important and downward.

We also have emotional drives and the biggest one, at least in my mind, is hope! Without hope we lose all reason for living.

I think that is one of the reasons that so many adults and now, even children commit suicide. They have lost hope.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

It is fitting that as she comes to the well, she carries a pail so she can draw water to assuage [ease] her thirst.

That Samaritan woman illustrates the longing of mankind and our thirst for something more fulfilling in life.

In a local newspaper I read a review of a book on the life of George Sanders that contained his famous suicide note.

George Sanders was at one time a leading man in Hollywood who had been married to Zsa Zsa Gabor and Benita Hume.

He was a graduate of Cambridge University and was a brilliant mathematician.

In sum, he was a man of exceptional mental and social abilities, but his note contained an element of Samaritan dissatisfaction and despair.

I am committing suicide because I am bored. I feel I have lived long enough. I leave you all in your sweet little cesspool and I wish you luck.

Ours is an age of thirst! Over the years I have heard with some regularity a popular song that keeps repeating the refrain, “Is that all there is?”

The songstress sings progressively about her experience and then wistfully says, “Is that all there is?”

Such a sentiment could have been written by the writer of Ecclesiastes. Certainly it could have been written by the Samaritan woman. It is the song of all who try to slake [satisfy] their thirst with the world. Our text tells us what Christ prescribes for that thirst.

- R. Kent Hughes, John – That You May Believe, p.106

I think that is one of the things that is happening today, that the movers and shakers are trying to take all hope away, trying to divide and conquer and it is easy to do when you have lost hope.

And once again, I believe one of the reasons that people have lost hope is because that spiritual drive is not met and without that, what do we have? We look to the world for help, and they are not helping us, not at all. They may try, but they come up short and in reality, they are looking out for themselves, trying to gain more power, more money, more control!

I guess, according to secular humanism, we are born, we live, and we die, end of story. And in looking at life like that, you are right, there is no hope.

But if we have that spiritual drive filled with God, the God of the Bible and not the god that is from the imagination of man's heart, we have hope.

We know that God created us. We know that God loves us. We know that He died to pay for our sins. We know that He has a plan for our lives. And we know that one day we will be with Him for eternity! And there is so much more, but you get the idea.

You see, there is that thirst deep inside every person to know God. Remember what the Psalmist said in Psalm 42:1-2, "**As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?**"

For many, they don't know what they are looking for, what they are searching for, but they know something is missing. And what is missing is that relationship with God. We were created for His good pleasure and thus, a satisfied life is one that is filled with doing what you were created for, bringing pleasure to God by serving Him!

Years ago we had a Golden Retriever named Brandy. And this dog loved to fetch. You could throw a ball a hundred times and she would bring it back for you to throw. She even tore her anterior cruciate ligament, and I didn't know it, and she wanted to play fetch. And she did but when she was done, she could hardly walk.

Why did she do that? Because she was created to fetch, and she found great pleasure in doing that. We find great pleasure in serving God, great joy if we do what we were created for!

But what happens many times is instead of searching for God, people try to fill that hunger, that thirst with material things, or even relationships and it never brings that satisfaction that they were looking for. You see, they are really thirsting for God and there is nothing else in this world that will bring that kind of satisfaction to your life!

I have called this study – ***LIVING WATER!***

And you will see what that is all about as we go through our study this morning. I have broken these verses down into several points and they are as follows,

THE PHYSICAL – JOHN 4:11-12

TRUE SATISFACTION – JOHN 4:13-14

A THIRST – JOHN 4:15

A LOOK AT YOUR HEART – JOHN 4:16-18

GROWING FAITH – JOHN 4:19-20

THE SPIRITUAL – JOHN 4:21-24

THE SALVATION – JOHN 4:25-26

Now let me share with you what is said in John 4:10 because that will lead us to what we will be studying this morning. We are told, **“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.’”**

I don’t know where you are at this morning. I don’t know what is going on in your life. Maybe you have lost all hope and my prayer is that you would leave here satisfied in Christ. All that you were longing for, all that you were looking for, all that you were hoping for, is met in Christ, our living water!

He loves you more than you will ever know, and He has a plan for your life if you would only surrender to Him and follow Him.

And if anyone has been thinking of suicide, get help. Call me. Don't let Satan rob you of your life, let Jesus give you life, and not just life, but give it to you more abundantly!

As we will see, this woman at the well in Samaria is longing for something that will satisfy her thirst.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 4, beginning in verse 11 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word, and we look at this topic – ***LIVING WATER!***

JOHN 4

VERSES 11-12

As you read through these verses you can clearly see that she is stilling looking at the physical and can't understand how she can obtain this living water.

That is why I called these verses – ***THE PHYSICAL!***

Look at what was going on here and the problem that she saw.

Jesus offered her "**living water**" and she did not see what Jesus said to be a spiritual statement, but a physical one, water.

It reminds me of Nicodemus, he had a hard time understanding the spiritual birth, he was thinking about physical birth.

And here we see that Jesus had nothing to draw out this water and the well was deep and thus, in her mind, she just didn't understand how this could be possible! How He could give her this living water!

And her conclusion is that Jesus is not greater than their father, Jacob, who gave them this well.

You see, the way this question is phrased in the Greek is that she is expecting a negative response. She did not believe that Jesus was greater than Jacob!

Bruce gives us some insight to this as he wrote, *“The (admittedly much later) Samaritan liturgy for the Day of Atonement says of the Taheb (the Samaritan counterpart to the Jewish Messiah), ‘Water shall flow from his buckets’ (language borrowed from Balaam’s oracle in Numbers 24:7).”*

Look at people today who know they are missing something, that they are thirsty and yet, they go to the world to quench that thirst and it will never, never satisfy.

Think about it like this. Imagine a sailor on the sea. He is in a life raft and has been drifting for days. He has no water to drink and yet, there in front of him is an ocean of water. And as he goes and takes a drink of that ocean water, he is worse off than before he took the drink.

And when we go to the world to satisfy our thirst, we may take it in, but in the end, we are worse off.

Instead of going to the living water, Jesus, we go to the stagnant water of this world.

Now let me say this. It may be refreshing at first, but in the end, you will be far worse than you were before. The world can't satisfy our thirst for God, only God can quench that thirst.

And her question to Jesus is an interesting one, “**Where then do You get that living water?**”

I find that a great question, a question that is asked by someone who is searching for the truth. It would be like sharing Christ with someone and they say, “*What must I do to be saved?*” We long to hear those words and be able to share with them the salvation message.

That was this woman, wanting to know where you can go to get that water and she did not even realize that the living water was there with her, Jesus!

But again, she is not thinking spiritual here, just on a physical level and how great it would be to get this physical water all the time!

Listen to what Jesus says next.

VERSES 13-14

Jesus is comparing the physical with the spiritual and He is saying that material things will never satisfy us, even though we think they will. I have called these verses – ***TRUE SATISFACTION!***

Think about this for a minute. How often have we said, “***Boy, if I only had such-and-such, that is all I need!***”

What happened?

You still needed something else, the thing you thought would satisfy didn't! Your latest and greatest computer you just bought last week is outdated already!

You see, the worldly realm can never satisfy the thirsty soul even though we keep trying to accomplish that with worldly things.

Jesus is speaking of drinking in the Spirit, spiritual things, that is where true satisfaction and lasting satisfaction is found.

And if we try to satisfy this God-created inner thirst with other things instead of Jesus, we will continue to thirst, we will not be satisfied.

And keep in mind that this expression of this water springing up into everlasting life means that the benefits of the water which Christ gives are not limited to earth but will go on forever! Praise God for that!

I like the way that Spurgeon sums this up for us. He wrote, ***“What does a thirsty man do to get rid of his thirst? He drinks. Perhaps there is no better representation of faith in all the Word of God than that. To drink is to receive-to take in the refreshing draught-and that is all. A man’s face may be unwashed, but yet he can drink; he may be a very unworthy character, but yet a draught of water will remove his thirst. Drinking is such a remarkably easy thing, it is even more simple than eating.”*** (Spurgeon, *Good News for Thirsty Souls*)

What an offer this is and how will this Samaritan woman respond to these words of Jesus, this water that springs up into everlasting life? How would you respond?

We will see what she has to say in a minute.

But if you are thirsty, what do you do?

You get something to drink!

If you have a thirst for God, what should you do?

You need to come to Him, draw close to Him, read His Word, take Him into your life and be refreshed. Just as you get thirsty on a physical level, we should be thirsty for God.

Remember what we read in Psalm 42, **“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”** Psalm 42:1-2.

Listen to what Ray Stedman had to say regarding this encounter and this living water. He wrote,

That is a very clear explanation. What Jesus says immediately is, “I am not talking about the water in the well. Drink of that water and you will thirst again.” (She knew what he meant. She had been coming to that well for years.)

“But I will give you living water, and the one who drinks of the water I give will never thirst.”

He did not, of course, mean that one could take one drink of living water and never again feel a thirst of soul, any more than one could take one drink of any kind of physical, literal water and never feel thirsty again.

What he means is what we Americans have discovered in our own homes. How do we keep from thirsting? We have water piped in, available to us all the time, so that when we feel even a little thirsty we take a drink of it.

This is what Jesus means here. The water he would give would be available constantly so that when one was thirsty one could drink immediately and so would never get terribly thirsty.

Many Christians never seem to learn this truth. They never realize that there is a place where their inner thirst - their sense of restlessness, their desire for more than they have got - can be met instantly.

Jesus goes on to make clear that it is going to be from within: “The water I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (By the way, notice when Jesus addresses this woman he does not change the pronoun; he uses masculine pronouns because that is a generic use of the pronoun “him.” That is, women have a right to be called “him” as much as men.)

“The water shall be in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

He means, of course, that that Spirit which he will impart is a life-giving Spirit, that as one drinks of that Spirit one experiences the quality of life which is called, in the Scriptures, eternal life.

That means far more than everlasting life. It means refreshing, invigorating, exciting life; life that has the qualities of love and joy and peace about it. When you lack these qualities, if you have drunk of the water that Jesus gives you can immediately slake [satisfy] your thirst - again and again and again. It is a beautiful picture: a well springing up to eternal life.

- <https://bit.ly/3l56e2Z>

As I look at this world and watch people, they are not satisfied, their life does not seem refreshing, but they complain about this and complain about that. They long for this and that and when they get it, they just can't get no – **SATISFACTION!**

A great example of this is Hollywood. They have so much and yet, look at their lives. They are not satisfied.

And if you want a Biblical reference, look at the life of Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes, he was not satisfied and he tried to fill his life with everything he could.

Life comes and goes and what do you get from it? **NOTHING!**

He sought for wisdom from the world, and he came up short.

He sought after pleasure apart from God, and he came up short.

He made some great accomplishments in his life, thinking that this would satisfy him, and once again he came up short.

He worked hard and felt it was meaningless.

He felt it was better to not even exist than face all the trouble that this world has for him.

Then there was this idea with popularity, and that is a changeable slope. They love you one minute and then they hate you the next.

He came to the conclusion that there was no satisfaction in wealth, in children, in labor, in the future, again, he just could not find any satisfaction when he was looking at life apart from God.

All life under the sun or apart from the Son of God, apart from God is empty. It is like trying to grasp the wind, you can try but you will never accomplish it. And the same is true with that abundant life, that true satisfaction, you won't grasp it until you take hold of the Lord!

Solomon came to that conclusion. Listen to what he said in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”**

How often it takes us more than it should to come to the conclusion of the matter. And the reason it does so often is that we try to do these things, come to the answer to these things apart from God or as Solomon said, **“under the sun.”** And the end result is that we find vanity, emptiness apart from God!

Solomon finally came to the end of himself and got refocused back on the Lord and his conclusion or the whole reason we exist is to fear God and keep His Words. If you do, you will find true fulfillment in life. If He is the priority in your life, then you will be satisfied, content with what He has given you. That is our duty and in fulfilling that duty is satisfaction. Jesus put it this way in Matthew 6:33 when He said, **“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”**

It is as Kidner wrote, *“Fear God is a call that puts us in our place, and all other fears, hopes, and admirations in their place.”*

As we reach the depths of our hopeless sinful condition, God gives us hope; He gives us life in Him!

Let me share this with you. We are told,

What’s the point? This question came to mind as I watched my grandsons’ dog fetch a ball for me again and again.

What’s the point? That’s what the writer of Ecclesiastes asked as he thought about the monotonous cycle he observed in nature and in life - the same things happening year after year, generation after generation.

What’s the point? That’s what a retired businessman was asking, in effect, when he told me he would just as soon die as live any longer. He had seen and done everything he had wanted to do. Now he had reached the place where life held more pain for him than pleasure.

What's the point? Here it is. A few years before a friend of mine died, he said, "Life is a wonderful experience. It's marvelous to see that God keeps nature going in its pattern. It's wonderful to know that we're here to love God above everything and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It's comforting to believe that all our sins are forgiven because of what Christ did on the cross. And it's exciting to think about the eternity God has for us. It sure is great to be alive."

Life can be depressing when God is left out. But how exciting it is when He is at the center!

- Herbert Vander Lugt

When we focus on Christ, everything else becomes clear. You see, life has meaning. Not, "**under the sun**" but ***IN THE SON OF GOD!*** Never forget that!

Now, how will this Samaritan woman respond to these words that Jesus just spoke to her?

Let's read on and see.

VERSE 15

In these verses we see – ***A THIRST!***

Now we read this story and at this point, with this Samaritan woman's response, we are ready to lead her in the sinner's prayer.

But not Jesus because He saw that she was still thinking along the physical lines and not the spiritual.

How do I know that?

Listen again to what she said. "**. . . 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.'**" John 4:15.

Again, she is thinking on the physical level. *“Hey, this is great. Give me this living water because living in the desert it is hard to find water at times and if I can have it all the time, perfect. Not only that, but to come to this well every day, in the heat of the day, is hard. So give me this living water so I don’t have to come to this well any longer!”*

Jesus was not speaking of physical or literal water here, but He was speaking of spiritual water, all those blessings that will come to a person when they come to Christ in faith!

And we see that today, that same physical aspect and thus, many say that they come to Christ because they want this, or they want that.

I want Jesus and that will heal my marriage!

I want Jesus and He will help me get that new job!

I want Jesus because my life is a mess, and He will make life easier!

I want Jesus because He can help me get out of jail!

I want Jesus because He can help me !

And if you do come to Jesus because you think your life will be easier or problem free, when difficulties come, and they will, when problems arise, and they will, you will drop out, you will move away because you did not get what you wanted!

Jesus has promised to satisfy our souls not eliminate our problems. Remember what Jesus said in John 16:33, **“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**

Did you see that? Our peace is in Christ, but we live in this world and what does the world have for us? **TRIBULATION!**

Do we see that played out in our lives? You bet we do, each and every day!

We have to count the cost before we come to Christ because it will cost us something. Jesus even said this in Luke 14:25-33. We are told, **“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”**”

That is very different than what we hear today. Today the evangelism is like, ***“Come to Jesus and all your problems will go away!”*** Sounds great but it is not true.

The problems are still there and many times they are even worse. But now we have Jesus that we can go to and lay them at His feet and take that weight off our shoulders and place that weight upon Him. He can handle it and we can't. Thus, we have peace in Him, not the world!

Now let me say this because it will lead us to our next point and a very important point. This Samaritan woman responded like many do today and I don't believe they are saved just as she was not saved at this point.

Again, she was basically saying to Jesus, ***“Jesus, if you want to make my life easier and more convenient, then I'm all for it. Give it to me!”***

Please understand that Jesus did not come to make my life easier, to make it more convenient, He came to save me from my sins! And thus, unless I repent of my sins then I cannot be saved! I need to understand that I am a sinner in need of a Savior, in need of Jesus!

In other words, ***REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND!***

And if you are doubting what I am saying, let's read on and you will see Jesus expose her sin so that she may repent and be saved!

VERSES 16-18

Talk about her mask of self-righteousness being pulled off, that is what we see here. Her mask is off, her sin is exposed and now she must decide which she loves more, her sin or the Messiah!

Remember, I have called these verses – ***A LOOK AT YOUR HEART!***

And this is very important for us to understand!

As we have read these verses, I want you to notice how Jesus uses His words like a surgical instrument to get to the heart of the matter with this woman. And He does the same with us as we read the Word of God.

Paul put it this way in Hebrews 4:12-13, **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

We too must not live behind those masks pretending to be something or someone we are not. God sees right through those masks, and we need to come clean before Him.

Remember in Acts chapter 2, as Peter gave that powerful sermon on the day of Pentecost, and in Acts 2:37 we see the response of the people to the Word of God, **“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”**

You see, conviction, **“cut to the heart”** and they ask Peter what they need to do to get saved and Peter tells them to repent, turn towards God and away from sin, receive Jesus Christ into your life!

You see, conviction before conversion! And that is what we are seeing here with this Samaritan woman!

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

The gospel tells us that the steps to redemption are twofold: repentance and belief: Repentance is a human act; belief and regeneration is a divine act. Until we admit our need there is no way of releasing God to act and to regenerate.

Jesus knows that she must come to that place, so he proceeds to deal with the hindrance. “Go call your husband,” he tells her. She admits that she has no husband, and he tells her she has had five, and is now living with another man.

As I have suggested, he knew this much about her. But he knew more than that. He knew there was a thirst in this woman’s heart, a hunger for something more.

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Now I want you to listen to the last part of verse 17 and into verse 18 again because there is something I want to share with you that is very important, especially in the days we are living in.

Jesus said, “. . . **‘You have well said, “I have no husband,” for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’**”

What I want you to notice is that the man she is living with is not her husband and thus, living together and marriage are not the same thing, I don’t care what you say! And just because you say, *“We are married in God’s eyes!”* does not make it true.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 13:4, **“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”**

God has told us what marriage is all about, what He considers marriage!

Now in regard to what Jesus was doing with this woman, exposing her sin, it is as Alford points out for us, **“I am persuaded that the right account is found, in viewing this command, as the *first step of granting her request, ‘give me this water.’* The first work of the Spirit of God, and of Him who here spoke in the fullness of that Spirit, is, to *convince of sin.*”**

(Alford)

Let me ask you this question. In churches, like the Seeker Friendly churches, how does a person come to Christ when sin is not talked about, it is not exposed?

Again, this is a problem. You see, what they are doing is saying, **“Come to Jesus and all your problems will go away!”** And, as we have seen, that is not true.

They are trying to convert them on a physical level, just like this Samaritan woman was approaching Jesus, and that will not work. It needs to be on a spiritual level. You must be born again!

And if you don’t see yourself as a sinner then why do you need a Savior?

You might say, **“To save me!”**

To save you from what?

And if you don't realize that you are a sinner and your sins have separated you from God, your salvation is from your problems and not your sin!

I hope you see how important this is. Jesus did not let this woman get away with approaching Him on the physical level, but He is exposing her heart, her sin!

Notice how this woman responds to what Jesus just said of her, the sin He exposed in her life!

VERSES 19-20

Here we see – ***GROWING FAITH*** in this Samaritan woman!

Ever since the first encounter that Jesus had with this woman at this well in Samaria, notice the progression she has made in regard to Jesus.

First, she saw Him as a Jew, and then she calls Him Sir, and now a prophet.

Her faith is growing as her sin is exposed.

But just recognizing that Jesus is a prophet won't save you, you need to see Him as the Messiah, as Savior, and so will she!

Spurgeon wrote, ***“It would have been better if she had perceived that she was a sinner.”***

How true that is!

But before she gets to that point, she takes a side road that truly is not the issue; the issue is ***“What have you done with Jesus?”***

She will get there but notice again what she says, **“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”**

John 4:20.

Did you notice how she deflected the attention off of her and put forth a question for Jesus to settle.

She wanted Jesus to settle this issue of who is right and who is wrong in the way they worshiped God. The Samaritans who worship on Mount Gerizim or the Jews who worship in Jerusalem?

And maybe her point is this, ***“Where can I go to find God? Is it here at Mount Gerizim or is it there at the Temple in Jerusalem?”***

And in that day, this was a hotly debated theological issue between the Jews and the Samaritans!

Obviously, for the Jews, it was on the top of Mount Moriah, where Solomon built the Temple, that was the only legitimate place!

But the Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim, in Samaria, and they believed that this was the place, the only place to worship God. But that temple was destroyed in 128 B. C., but they still worshiped on Mount Gerizim.

So, in her search for God, she is confused and asks Jesus where the proper place to worship God was at!

She had – ***GROWING FAITH!***

VERSES 21-24

First of all, God did instruct the Jews to build the Temple in Jerusalem as a place of worship unto Him, but that truly is not the issue.

I have called these verses – ***THE SPIRITUAL!***

The reason being is that is what Jesus is dealing with here, spiritual matters!

I don't mean to offend anyone, but it doesn't matter where you worship God. Now some of you may be shocked by that.

Please understand that I said it doesn't matter **WHERE** you worship God, not **HOW** you worship God!

There is a big difference! True worshipers worship Him in spirit and in truth.

And we need to understand this point. Worship is not a matter of location but a matter of the heart. And yes, the Jews had the oracles of God or the Words of God, and thus, salvation is of the Jews, this light of God they were to share with others as Paul tells us in Romans 9:1-5, **“I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”**

You see, Paul is grieving over the fact that the Jews who had the Words of God have now rejected Him. They made this relationship with God into rituals to be kept instead of a love relationship.

Also, notice that Jesus was not afraid to tell her she was on the wrong spiritual path, and neither should we be afraid if someone is not on the path to Jesus.

Too often people tell us we are not tolerant of other religions. That is not true, you can worship whatever or whoever you want, I just don't agree with them because they don't lead people to God! It is not that all roads lead to God, but only one, Jesus!

Now we either believe that or we don't and what we believe will be manifested in our lives, what we do and what we say!

And if you believe that all roads lead to God then it doesn't matter how you worship Him.

But listen to what Jesus says here, “**. . . for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**” John 4:23-24.

So, Jesus is saying that it does matter how you worship Him.

First of all, you must worship Him in spirit. That is, you must be saved, born again before God will accept any part of our worship.

Paul put it this way in Romans 8:6-9, “**For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**”

If you are saved, then the Spirit of God indwells you!

Secondly, we must worship God in truth. What does that mean?

Jesus is saying that if we want to worship God, we must not only be saved but we must also worship Him according to His Word.

We cannot just approach God any way we want, He is holy and righteous and like the President, we just don't do what we want. We just can't walk into the White House and say “***Hello!***” There are things we must do, ways we are to approach him, and the same is true with God.

I remember several years back Christianity Today had a picture on their front cover of Jesus with sunglasses on and He was cool looking. They called it – **HIPSTER JESUS!**

No, He is Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth and He must be worshiped that way. Not the way we want, but what the Bible says. Calling Jesus - **HIPSTER JESUS**, does not honor Him, not at all!

So, how do we know what to do? Like I have said, by following His Word, being obedient to what God's Word says for our lives.

Jesus said in John 17:17, "**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**"

Thus, when we come before God we must do so in spirit and in truth!

And in hearing the truth, notice how this Samaritan woman responds.

VERSES 25-26

After that we see that this woman recognizes that the Messiah is coming and she tells Jesus that she is waiting for her version of the Messiah to come, the ones the Samaritans were looking for.

And I love the response that Jesus gives her. Jesus tells her it is He. Now in the English it does not come across as clear and strong as it does in the Greek.

In the Greek Jesus says, "**I Am, that speaks to you.**"

In other words, Jesus is claiming to be the voice from the burning bush from Exodus chapter 3, the Great I Am, the Becoming One!

In the Greek, it is **EGO AMI** and for those that say that Jesus never claimed to be God, sorry, He makes that point very clear here in John 4:26! And we see this throughout the Gospel of John!

And notice that she did not come to saving faith through some religious experience, or some religion or some guru or whatever. She came to saving faith through Jesus. He revealed Himself to her and she came to saving faith. She was thirsty to know God and now that thirst was quenched in God!

THE SALVATION!

That is what we are to bring to people, Jesus! It is not a twelve-step program or this or that, it is just Jesus! And when I say “***just***” I am saying that is all you need!

Now you may be wondering where she got saved, because it does not say that she got saved in these verses we read.

I think she got saved somewhere between verse 27 and verse 28!

How do I know that?

Because, as you read the rest of the story she goes to her people, the ones that didn’t like her that much, and she tells them that she found the Messiah. She is an evangelist and thus, she is saved!

Her witness was a great one. God saved her, a sinner and God can save any of them and any of you! He came to save that which was lost and all of us where or are lost in sin and we needed or need the touch of the Savior in our lives, just as this woman did!

Today, people have all kinds of ideas of how they will get to heaven. Listen carefully. We are told,

If you’ve seen the TV game show ***Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*** you’re familiar with the “lifelines” each contestant may use when they are uncertain about the answer to a question.

They symbolize the way many people think about life’s ultimate questions.

50/50: Some people hope they will make it to heaven. They think they have at least a 50/50 chance. They're trying to do enough good things to get in.

Phone a friend: Some people do what their friends do, think what their friends think, and are counting on their friends to be right about ultimate truth.

Ask the audience: Others accept the majority view. If New Age is in, they follow it. If 60 percent of the country rejects the Bible, they reject the Bible.

What's your lifeline?

- Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion

May it be Jesus. As He said to the Samaritan woman, He is saying to you, "**I Am, that speaks to you.**"

And to come into that relationship with Jesus, you need to repent of your sins, and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of your life.

And for all of us, the Great I Am is there for us all the time. Thus, may we worship Him in Spirit and in truth and may we receive that peace that surpasses all understanding in our lives!

He is our – ***LIVING WATER!***