

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 4

Review: Last week we went through chapter 3 which gives us the account of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night with questions. Jesus went right to the heart of the matter with this statement “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”. The new birth message was way over Nicodemus’s head. He said, “How can these things be?” Jesus then gives him a sign to look for that would help him understand the mission of Christ. **John 3:14-15** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. As the ministry of Christ became more widespread, the disciples of John the Baptist became envious. John explains to them that Jesus is the Son of God, that he came from above and is greater than all, and that John must decrease but Christ must increase.

John 4:1-4 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria. *Judaea is the southern region of Israel and Galilee is the northern region. Samaria is the region in between them. The Jews so despised the Samaritans that they would cross the Jordan and go around Samaria to travel north or south. So the fact that Jesus is traveling through Samaria probably seemed strange to the disciples.*

John 4:5-6 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour. *The name Sychar means “drunkard” or “liar” alluding to the fact that this is city possibly has a bad reputation. The sixth hour is noon.*

John 4:7-9 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

The bad blood between the Jews and Samaritans: The Jews despised the Samaritans because they saw them as racially and religiously impure. When the Assyrians captured and carried off much of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC, those that were left behind intermarried with Gentiles who had come to settle in that land. They adopted idolatry as a result. When the Southern Kingdom was making a comeback from Babylon and began to rebuild the temple, Samaritans opposed the rebuilding. The Samaritans built a rival temple

in Mount Gerizim since the Jews didn't want them in Jerusalem. The woman at the well makes reference to worshipping there. In 128 BC, Jewish leader John Hyrcanus destroyed the Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim, further exacerbating the hatred.

John 4:10-12 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? *Jesus speaks to her about the same need that Nicodemus had but in different terms. He told Nicodemus about the new birth because his confidence was in his first birth. He speaks to this woman about living water (Holy Spirit) because it satisfies and sin doesn't.*

John 4:13-15 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. *Again this is a spiritual message with a natural illustration. His message created a desire in her for what she didn't even know she needed.*

John 4:16-19 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. *The Lord gave her an opportunity to be honest and she was, he then preceded to reveal to her that he knew all about her. She was not offended at what he said and she was right; Jesus was a prophet. A prophet had the ability to reveal the unknown by the Spirit of God. The conversation continued because she was honest and did not resist the truth.*

John 4:20-23 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. *Old Testament worship was about being at the right place. Mount Horeb was called the mount of God where Moses and Elijah encountered God. From the time of the wilderness tabernacle to the building of the temple of Solomon, people had to come to those places to worship God because that's where God dwelled. Jesus is revealing a shift in all this to her by telling her that the time is soon*

approaching where people will be able to worship the Father anywhere. He plainly told her that the worship of the Samaritans was not done in truth because they only accepted the torah and not the prophets. They had only a partial understanding of God and the basis of the worship was flawed that's why he said "Ye worship ye know not what". Salvation is of the Jews because the covenants and promises were given to them as well as the law and the prophets. The Messiah is Jewish. God intended on saving Gentiles all along, but we're saved because of what He did through the Jews.

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. God is a Spirit so the only way he can be worshiped, connected with or perceived is through our spirit. Two things are required to worship God rightly – a living spirit and truth. That's why lost people can't worship God because their spirit is dead. They can praise God, but true worship is an intimate spiritual connection between God and an individual. The reason that people can worship anywhere now is because God no longer dwells in tents, tabernacles or temples. He dwells in his born-again children.*

John 4:25-26 *The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. She had enough truth to know that there was a Messiah coming and that he would have the ability to reveal everything that they needed to know. The Lord saw her faith and let her know that he was the one she was looking for!*

John 4:27-30 *And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. Given the history between the Jews and the Samaritans we now understand why he sent the disciples away for this occurrence and why they marveled when they came upon the scene. The woman thrilled that she just met the Christ, left her waterpot, and ran into the city to get others to come out and meet him.*

John 4:31-34 *In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Jesus again uses a natural illustration to teach his disciples a spiritual truth. When they urged him to eat, he began to speak of doing the will of the Father and compared that to natural food. The point being that true satisfaction and sustenance comes from doing God's will and completing His work, rather than from physical food.*

John 4:35-38 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. *Key points to this teaching:*

- **Urgency in ministry** – No need to wait, the time is now. There is a spiritual harvest available right now.
- **The ripe field** – People were ready to receive the gospel so give it to them.
- **Sowers and reapers** – In spiritual work, it takes some to sow (plant the seed) and some to reap the fruits. It takes both and they rejoice together when the harvest comes in.
- **Shared reward** – Both parties are valuable in the work, and they will receive a reward for their labors.

John 4:39-42 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. *This great harvest that saw many come to faith in Christ started with him reaching one. The one was a woman of reputation and when she went back with such enthusiasm and excitement, it drew a crowd more to him. When they came to him and heard him themselves, they believed as well. Many times, a great move of God starts with the salvation of one notable sinner!*

Tonight's application: Jesus said that doing and completing the Father's will was more satisfying to him than natural food. This is another reminder to us that the most important goals in our lives should be to seek, find, and do the will of God until it's completed. The million-dollar question is "How can I find the will of God for my life?". The answer is found in **Matthew 4:19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Discipleship is following Jesus in a personal walk with him that includes private prayer, reading the word, worship, and obedience. If you don't follow him, you can't find it. Just going to church is not following Jesus!