



John 4:1-42

Reflect on the Talk...

What did you find helpful, insightful, challenging or encouraging from the talk?

Did you take any action in your life after hearing the talk?

Sermon outline:

A Surprise

Jesus gets her alone

He gets her to think

He gets her to see

From Jesus (who is the temple) the Spirit of God flows in the hearts of all believers.

THINK IT THROUGH

Spiritually, we are all thirsty people, continually looking for some thing to drink. All of us, at one time or another, have drunk spiritual salt water, or have drawn from stagnant ponds. Seeking satisfaction from such sources might look attractive, and may even satisfy for a short time, but they ultimately make us sick or thirstier. Augustine prayed, "Our hearts find no peace until they rest in you".¹ To put it another way, we all have a 'God shaped hole' that we fill with all kinds of things in a futile attempt to replace the God of the universe. But when God the Son came into our world, he offered to fill our deepest—if unfelt—need.

We pick up the story with Jesus in transit, on his way from Judea to Galilee (vv. 16). In Judea, Jesus' disciples had been baptizing people with water, just like John the Baptist. Jesus himself didn't baptize with water—no doubt because Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire,

not water, on the day of Pentecost. Jesus' disciples were beating John the Baptist at his own game, because Jesus must increase and John the Baptist must decrease (vv. 12, cf. John 3:30).

Jesus decided to return to Galilee, yet he "had to pass through Samaria" (v. 4), which brought him into inevitable contact with **Samaritans**. Geographically, Samaria sat between Judea, the main Jewish province in the south with the capital city of Jerusalem, and Galilee, the Jewish 'country cousins' to the north. While it is possible that the necessity of stopping was a pragmatic one related to his journey, it is more likely that there was a divine necessity: Jesus had his Father's work to do in Samaria. It was no accident that Jesus was there at that particular hour to talk to one specific Samaritan woman who had come out to draw water.

Read John 4:1-20 (you don't need to answer all these questions – just enough so that you think you have a good understanding of this passage?).

1. Why was the Samaritan woman surprised when Jesus asked her for water (vv. 7-9, 11)?
2. What can we know about the "living water" that Jesus offered the woman (vv. 10-14, cf. John 7:37-39)?
3. What did the woman initially think that Jesus was offering her (v. 15)?
4. How does Jesus make this conversation about his own identity (vv. 10-14, 19)?
5. Why does Jesus abruptly change the topic to what we might consider a very sensitive and personal issue (vv. 16-18)?
6. What topic does the woman raise in verses 19-20? Why might she have raised this topic?
7. Based on what Jesus says in this passage, what is the essence of 'worship'?
8. Why is salvation "from the Jews" (v.22; cf. Gen 12:1-3; Exod 4:22; Psalm 76:1)?
9. What is the problem with the worship of both the Samaritans and the Jews (vv. 21-24)?
10. When does the 'hour' arrive for the new worshippers and their worship (vv. 21, 23, cf. 12:20-24, 27; 16:20, 32)? What does this teach us about Jesus.
11. What does it mean to worship "in spirit and truth" (vv. 23-24)? How do the following verses help us to understand this idea: 9:31; 9:38; 14:15-17; 15:26?

Application

Seek to explain to one another what this living water is that Jesus offers and how it might make a difference in your life.

Read Ezekiel – 36:24-28. How does this passage further describe what God is wanting to do in our lives?