

## The Gospel of John 4:1-26

### The Setting: A Thirsty Savior and a Thirsty Sinner (vv.1-8)

According to 4:4, the Lord "...had to pass through Samaria." Undoubtedly, this Samaritan woman had been foreknown and predestinated by God the Father in eternity past. (**Rom. 8:29**). Although the Jews would never pass through Samaria, the Lord Jesus felt burdened to do so, not because it was necessary geographically, but because of the will of the Father. At noon, the hottest part of the part of the day, with most people inside to keep cool, a weary Jesus sat by the well while the disciples went into town to buy food. Then a woman came to the well to draw water, thinking that she could be alone and free from the disapproving stares of other women. While the Lord Jesus was waiting for the sinner to come, He was thirsty. The Savior is thirsty for us, for, to Him, we are the thirst-quenching water. At first, both the Savior and the sinner were thirsty. Eventually, neither the Savior nor the sinner drank or ate anything, yet both were satisfied. This is wonderful! The sinner drank of the Savior, the Savior drank of the sinner, and both of them were satisfied

The sign of Jacob's well should lead us to realize our need of something other than tradition. What we need is a living Person, the Son of God. In John 4:10, the Lord Jesus referred to "the gift of God". This gift is the Son of God Himself. Isaiah 9:6 says that a Son has been given to us, and Jn.3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that every one who believes into Him would have eternal life. In this God-given gift is eternal life. God's gift to us includes both His Son and His divine life; they are one gift, for the divine life is in the Son, and the Son actually is the divine life (**John 14:6**). 1Jn 5:11-12 says, "God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." The thirst in human life is not satisfied by tradition. Our thirst is quenched only by a living person, the One who has been given to us to be our eternal life.

### The Emptiness of Religion's Tradition and the Fullness of Life's Living Water (vv.9-14)

The Samaritan woman in John 4 was trying to get water for her living from that traditional well, and she spoke to the Lord Jesus about worship on that traditional mountain. Her trust was altogether in these two traditions, in the well for human living and in the mountain for the worship of God. But the real well is not Jacob's well, a traditional well; our well is the Son of God. We have received Him, and He has become a spring of water welling up within us into eternal life. As He wells up within us, we are brought into eternal life. This welling up of the Lord within us quenches our thirst. The divine life is God's gift. (**Romans 6:23**) This divine life shall become in us a spring of water welling up into eternal life (**John 4:14**). This divine life is much better than Jacob's well. There is only one "water" that satisfies people for eternity—Jesus Christ., Christ satisfies today, tomorrow, and for eternity. He is ever new, ever fresh. He always satisfies. The Lord says that if we drink of any other water we will thirst, referring to the water from Jacob's well. (**v.13**) All other waters cannot quench the thirst deep within man.

### The Way to Take the Living Water-. (vv.15-26)

To help the woman to take a drink of the fountain of life, the Lord first showed her sins, so that she could confess and repent from them. Then He showed her that she needed to contact God as Spirit of God in her spirit and in reality. She also needed to believe that Jesus is the Christ. The sinning activity of the woman was a kind of drinking from the wrong well. The woman tried the first husband, drinking of that "water," and she was not satisfied. Then she tried the second, third, fourth, and fifth husbands. Since none of these satisfied her, she was trying another. Her changing of husbands fully proved that however much she drank of that "water," she was still thirsty. "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again." When the woman had been exposed by the Lord and was shown that she was empty and drinking in vanity, she right away tried to change the subject to religion.

She started talking about the Samaritans and the Jews and their places of worship. The Lord quickly corrected her poor theology, but refused to be distracted by religious discussions, He brought her back to confront her need and the Father's need. The Father desires true worshippers, those that will worship, not in this place or in that, but in spirit. Her need was to become such a worshipper by becoming a drinker of the divine and eternal life, in her spirit. This word was given to instruct the Samaritan woman regarding her need to exercise her spirit to contact God the Spirit. To contact God the Spirit with the spirit is to drink of the living water, and to drink of the living water is to render real worship to God. According to typology, God should be worshipped (1) in the place chosen by God for His habitation (**Deut. 12:5, 11, 13-14, 18**) and (2) with the offerings (**Lev. 1-6**).

The place chosen by God for His inhabitants typifies the human spirit, where God's habitation is today (**Eph. 2:22**). The offerings typify Christ; Christ is the fulfillment and reality of all the offerings with which the people worshipped God. Since Christ the reality had come (**vv. 25-26; 1:29; 3:12; 14:6**), all the shadows and types are over. Hence, when the Lord instructed the woman to worship God the Spirit in spirit and reality, He meant that she should contact God the Spirit in her spirit instead of in a specific location, and through Christ, rather than through the offerings. As THE reality, Christ is the fountain of living water, the life-giving Spirit (**vv. 7-15**), that must be partaken of and drunk by His believers to be the reality within them. As they continue drinking eventually He becomes their genuineness and sincerity in which they worship God with the real worship that He seeks (**1John 1:6; Rom. 3:7; and Rom. 15:8**)

To help the thirsty women to quench her thirst, Jesus showed her that she needed the living water and the only way she could have a drink of it is by: making confession of sin, contacting God the Spirit in the human spirit and in truthfulness and by believing that Jesus is the Christ. When Jesus told her that He is the Christ, she was led to believe that He was the Christ who could bring her eternal life (20:31). So, she believed! (v.29).