

Approximately 40 minutes Expository



## **Living Water for a Thirsty Soul**

**John 4:1-26:**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Father God, thank You for Your holy Word. Thank You for giving us the Gospel of John so we can see Jesus clearly. Open our hearts today. Help us understand this passage, not just with our minds, but deep in our souls. Speak to the new believer and strengthen the mature believer. Show us Jesus as the Savior who seeks sinners, satisfies thirsty hearts, and reveals true worship. Lord God, by Your Spirit, draw people to Yourself today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Historical Setting:

John chapter 4 takes us into a very important moment in the ministry of Jesus. The Lord is traveling from Judea back to Galilee, and verse 4 says, **“Now he had to go through Samaria.”** Geographically, that was the direct route. But spiritually, this was much bigger than geography.

The Jews and Samaritans had a long history of division, bitterness, and religious conflict. The Samaritans were a mixed people, and they had their own place of worship on Mount Gerizim 🖐️: **GEHR-ih-zim**. The Jews worshiped in Jerusalem. Each side looked down on the other. Many Jews would even go around Samaria to avoid contact with Samaritans.

But Jesus does not avoid broken people. He does not go around needy souls. He does not bypass sinners. He goes straight to them.

👉 And that is good news for all of us.

Because if Jesus only came for the clean, the polished, the respected, and the religious, none of us would have any hope.

👉 But He came for the thirsty. He came for the empty. He came for the guilty. He came for the lost.

That is exactly what we see here.

### **Jesus Seeks the Thirsty:**

**John 4:1-6 (NIV) Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—<sup>2</sup> although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.**

**<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, 👉 : SIGH-kar near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son**

**Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.**

John 4:1-6 tells us Jesus arrived at a town in Samaria called Sychar, 👉 : **SIGH-kar** near the plot of ground Jacob had given to Joseph. Jacob's well was there. John tells us Jesus, **"....tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon."** (Vs.6)

What a beautiful picture. Jesus is fully God, but He is also truly man. He is tired. He is weary from the journey. He feels the heat of the day. He sits at the well.

Never forget this: 👉 our Savior understands human weakness.

- He is not distant.
- He is not cold.
- He is not untouched by life in this fallen world. 👉 He entered into it.

And while He sits weary at the well, He is about to meet a woman who is far more weary than He is. His body is tired from the road, but her soul is tired from sin, shame, disappointment, and empty relationships.

She comes to draw water at noon. That matters. Most women came early or later when it was cooler. This woman comes in the heat of the day, likely because she wants to avoid people. She is carrying more than a water jar. She is carrying a wounded life.

And Jesus is waiting for her.

That is grace.

👉 You may think you found yourself at some well in life by accident. But many times, the Lord was already there before you arrived.

## Jesus Breaks Barriers:

**John 4:7-9(NIV) <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)**

**<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)**

Verses 7-9 say that when a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, **“....Will you give me a drink?”** (Vs.7) She was surprised because Jews did not normally associate with Samaritans.

This is already shocking. A Jewish rabbi speaking publicly to a Samaritan woman was unexpected. Jesus breaks through

ethnic barriers, social barriers, moral barriers, and religious barriers.

**Why?** Because grace is stronger than man-made walls.

The world is full of dividing lines.

- Race.
- class.
- politics.
- background.
- education.
- religion.
- reputation.

👉 But Jesus is not impressed with the walls we build. He came to save people from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

He speaks to this woman not as a problem to avoid, but as a soul to rescue.

👉 That is how Jesus still works.

- He is not afraid of your past.
- He is not intimidated by your shame.
- He is not embarrassed by your failures.
- He comes near and speaks.

## **The Gift of God:**

**John 4:10-15(NIV) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”**

**<sup>11</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”**

**<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the**

**water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

**<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”**

In verses 10-15, Jesus shifts the conversation. He says, **“....If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”** (Vs.10)

She is thinking about physical water. Jesus is talking about spiritual life.

That happens often in John’s Gospel. Jesus speaks on one level, but He means something deeper. He is not talking about water from a well. He is talking about eternal life, the life of God, the satisfying

work of the Holy Spirit, the salvation only He can give.

Jesus says everyone who drinks from the well water will be thirsty again. That is true physically, and it is also true spiritually.

This world is full of wells that cannot satisfy.

- People run to money, but they are thirsty again.
- They run to pleasure, but they are thirsty again.
- They run to romance, success, achievement, entertainment, or religion without Christ, and they are thirsty again.

The human heart was not made to be filled with temporary things. It was made for God.

Mature believers understand that this is one of the great themes of Scripture. Our deepest problem is not just bad behavior. It is spiritual thirst.

👉 Humanity is separated from God, and until that is changed, nothing in this world can truly satisfy.

Jesus says the water He gives will become in them **“....a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”** (Vs.14)

- That is not a trickle.
- That is not a religious ritual.
- That is not a temporary emotional lift.
- That is salvation.
- That is new life.

👉 That is the Spirit of God bringing life to a dead soul.

The woman says, **“....Sir, give me this water....”** (Vs.15).... She still does not fully understand, but she knows she needs what Jesus is offering.

👉 And that is where salvation begins. A person starts realizing, **“What I have been living on is not enough.”**

## **Jesus Puts His Finger on the Real Need:**

John 4:16-18(NIV) **16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”**

**17 “I have no husband,” she replied.**

**Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”**

Then Jesus says in verse 16, **“....Go, call your husband and come back.”** (Vs.16)

At first that sounds abrupt. But Jesus is not being harsh. He is going right to the wound. He is going to the center of the issue.

She answers, **“I have no husband....”**(Vs.17)

Jesus says, in effect, **“...You are right. You have had five husbands, and the**

**man you now have is not your husband....”(Vs.17-18)**

Now the Lord reveals supernatural knowledge. He knows her life completely.

Notice something important. Jesus does not expose her to destroy her. 🙌 He exposes her to **save** her.

Before the living water can be received, the truth must come out. The Lord will not heal what we keep covering. 🙌 He deals lovingly, but He deals truthfully.

This woman had been looking for satisfaction in relationships. Again and again, she went to the same broken cistern. Five husbands. Now another man. And still empty.

That is not just her story. That is humanity's story.

We try one more thing, one more person, one more achievement, one more

experience, thinking, “**Maybe this will finally do it.**” But sin cannot satisfy the soul made for God.

Jesus lovingly shows her that her deepest problem is not that she needs better circumstances. Her deepest problem is that she needs redemption.

And Brothers and Sisters, this is still true today.

The answer to our emptiness...

- is not self-improvement.
- It is not about looking spiritual on the outside while hurting on the inside.
- It is not pretending.

👉 It is Christ.

### **Conviction Leads to Revelation:**

**John 4:19-24**(NIV) **19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that**

**the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”**

**21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”**

In verses 19-20 the woman says, **“Sir,..... I can see that you are a prophet.”**

(Vs.19)Then she quickly brings up the debate about worship: **“Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”**(Vs.20)

That sounds like a change of subject, but it really is not. When conviction comes, people often move toward religion. Instead of dealing with the heart, they start debating worship styles, church buildings, denominations, traditions, or locations.

- But Jesus does **not** let her avoid the real issue by hiding behind a theological debate.

**In verses 21-24 Jesus says the hour is coming when worship will not be about this mountain or Jerusalem. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

This is glorious.

Jesus is saying true worship is not mainly about place.

- It is about person.

- It is about relationship with God through truth and by the Spirit.

Worship is not merely external.

- It is not just ceremony.
- It is not just attending a location.
- It is not just saying religious words.

👉 True worship happens when a **heart** made alive **by God** responds **to God** as He truly is.

- “In spirit” means it is real, inward, alive, not empty ritual.
- “In truth” means it is according to who God really is, not according to our own imagination.

That means worship must be sincere and scriptural.

- Passionate and grounded.
- Heartfelt and biblical.

And notice this wonderful phrase: “...the **Father seeks.**” (Vs.23)

Think of that. God is seeking worshipers.

- Not polished performers.
- Not religious actors.
- Not people with perfect pasts.

👉 He seeks true worshipers.

👉 What grace! The God this woman had sinned against is the God who is seeking her.

### The Messiah Stands Before Her:

**John 4:25-26(NIV) <sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”**

**<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”**

Then in verses 25-26 the woman says, **“I know that Messiah” is coming. “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”**(Vs.25)

Then Jesus gives one of the clearest declarations in all the Gospels: **“I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”**(Vs.26)

What a moment.... Think about this....

The Messiah is not merely sending a message. He is standing there in person.

The answer is not in a system. 🙌 The answer is in a Savior.

🙌 The **living water** is not a concept. It is found in **Christ Himself**.

This weary woman came for ordinary water and met the Messiah.

- She came with a jar.
- 🙌 She left with hope.
- She came burdened by shame.
- 🙌 She encountered grace and truth.

- She came thirsty.
- 🙌 She found the only One who can satisfy forever.

## **What This Means for Us:**

For the new Christian, this passage says Jesus knows everything about you and still comes near in love. He is not waiting for you to clean yourself up before He speaks to you. He already knows. And He still offers **living water**.

For the mature believer, this passage reminds us that evangelism is often ...

- One conversation at a well.
  - One tired moment.
  - One ordinary day.
  - One broken person.
- 🙌 And Christ is still seeking worshipers. We should never write people off because of their past, their background, or their reputation.

It also reminds us that even as believers, we must guard against going back to empty wells. 🙌 We know Christ, yet sometimes we still drift toward things that cannot satisfy. The answer is not to dig deeper in the world's wells. 🙌 The answer is to come to Jesus daily.

### **Invitation to Be Born Again:**

Listen....Maybe today you are like this woman. You have tried to fill the emptiness with other things.

Maybe nobody else knows the truth about your heart. 🙌 But Jesus knows. And the amazing news is this: He still offers you mercy.

- You do not need a new religion.  
🙌 You need new life.
- You do not just need a better routine.  
🙌 You need to be born again.  
You do not need to keep carrying the

weight of sin. Jesus died on the cross for your sins and rose again so you can be forgiven and made new.

The gift is not earned.  
The gift is received.

**Romans 10:9(NIV) <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

If you want Jesus today. This very moment  
Pray....


**“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner.... I believe You died for my sins and rose again..... Please forgive me.... Please save me.... I turn from my sins and place my trust in You alone..... Be my Lord and Savior..... Give me eternal life and help me follow You.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

**“If”** you prayed something like this prayer to Jesus and truly meant it by faith, the Bible says you are **now a child of the King. You are in HIS family... You belong to God!!!**

This is not the end. This is only the beginning.

Now go and walk with Jesus.

- Read His Word.
- Pray.... Pray constantly.
- Fellowship with believers.

 Tell someone that you have trusted Christ today... God is good all the time!!!

**Closing Prayer:**

**Lord Jesus, thank You that You are still meeting thirsty people. Thank You that You are not repelled by our sin, our shame, or our brokenness. Thank You that You speak truth, and thank You that You give grace.**

**Father, I pray for every believer listening today. Draw us away from the empty wells of this world. Teach us to worship You in spirit and in truth. Fill us fresh with joy, holiness, and love for Christ.**

**And Lord God, for anyone who has never truly been saved, I pray they would come to You right now. May they confess their sin, believe on Jesus Christ, and receive eternal life. Let today be the day they are born again.**

**Thank You for seeking us before we ever sought You. Thank You for the living water that only you give. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**