



# Loving Your Neighbor When You Speak

JOHN 4:1-26

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- “And he *had* to pass through Samaria” (v. 4).
- He went to a difficult place (v. 4).
  - The necessity to pass through Samaria lay in Jesus’ mission, not the geography.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“And he **had** to pass through Samaria”* (v. 4).
  - Jews often avoided Samaria by crossing the Jordan River and walking on its east side.
    - They considered the Samaritan race corrupt and impure.
    - The Samaritans were outside “the covenanted mercies of Israel.”

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- But Jesus wanted to reach these despised people.
  - As the Savior of the world, He wanted to seek out and save the despised and the outcasts (Luke 19:10).

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The Political Situation of Samaria
  - ▶ Joined to Judea
  - ▶ No separate political existence
- ▶ The Ethnicity of the Samaritans
  - ▶ Mixed Jew and Gentile

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The Religion of the Samaritans
  - ▶ Accepted the Torah only
  - ▶ Had temple at Mt. Gerizim
  - ▶ A religion that was a result of syncretism and schism from Judaism.
  - ▶ A small group of Samaritans maintain their traditions today.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”* (v. 7)
- He made contact.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”* (v. 7)
  - The woman came to draw water at 12 noon (in the heat of the day). Why?
    - Most women drew water at around 6 PM.
    - Some would draw water early in the morning.
    - Usually, no woman would draw water at noon.



# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”* (v. 7)
  - ▶ This woman was alienated from the other women in the village.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”* (v. 7)
  - Jesus made contact with the woman by simply asking her for a drink of water.
  - It was also a provocative request.
  - By making this request, this Jewish rabbi was challenging the prejudices of His day.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”* (v. 7)
- The Lord used this simple, provocative, outrageous request to initiate a conversation about spiritual life.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water” (v. 10).*
- He created interest.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- The woman needed to know about two things:
  - “The gift of God”
  - The One who asked her for a drink
    - Who could give her “the gift of God”

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ Jesus changed water into a metaphor (“living water”).
  - ▶ The “gift of God” is the “living water.”
- ▶ Jesus has now:
  - ▶ introduced His subject,
  - ▶ captured her attention,
  - ▶ and stimulated her curiosity (vv. 11-12).

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The woman was still thinking about physical water (vv. 11-12).
  - ▶ She pointed out that Jesus did not have a bucket with which to draw water.
  - ▶ The depth of the well (over 100 feet).
  - ▶ She contrasted Jesus with Jacob.
    - ▶ Her question shows that she assumed that Jacob was greater than Jesus.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (vv. 13-14).*
  - He created a felt need (vv. 13-14).



# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ Jesus made it clear that He was not talking about literal water.
- ▶ The term “welling up” is a vigorous expression, pointing to vigorous, abundant life.
  - ▶ Living water provides continual satisfaction of one’s needs and desires.
- ▶ From Jesus’ living water, salvation can be offered to others.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The woman had not quite wrapped her mind around what Jesus was talking about (v. 15).
  - ▶ She was still thinking about literal water.
  - ▶ She was thinking of not having to work so hard.
- ▶ But she really wanted what Jesus had to offer.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”*
- He confronted sin (v. 16).
  - This showed that Jesus knew everything about the woman.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- Her marital history was known to the Stranger, including the fact that she was living in sin.
- Thus, in a few words Jesus had revealed her life of sin and her need of salvation.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- To share the complete message of the gospel, we have to deal with the problem of sin.
- Today there are churches and movements that do not do this.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The woman admitted that Jesus was connected to God (v. 19a).
- ▶ Then she tried to change the subject (vv. 19b-20).

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ She brought up a religious issue that divided the Samaritans and the Jews.
  - ▶ Putting distance between herself and this prophet
  - ▶ Getting herself back to more comfortable ground

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (vv. 21-22)*



# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (vv. 23-24)
- . He returned the discussion to the issue at hand (vv. 21-24).

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The issue of the place of worship was becoming irrelevant (v. 21)
- ▶ But, at the same time, the Samaritans had a false religion and the Jews had a true one (v. 22).

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ People would soon worship the Father (vv. 23-24):
  - ▶ According to the truth (which is in Jesus)
  - ▶ In a spiritual way (through the Holy Spirit)

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The woman had tried to change the subject:
  - ▶ Creating a barrier between herself (a Samaritan) and Jesus (a Jew).
  - ▶ Taking the focus off of her own sinfulness.
- ▶ Jesus brought the discussion back to the issue at hand: the woman's relationship with the true God.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”*
- He introduced Himself (v. 26)

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ Again, the woman was trying to evade the issue (v. 25).
  - ▶ Her statement implies that the matter of worship was too important for people like herself and Jesus to work out.
  - ▶ The understanding of the matter of worship would have to await the coming of the Messiah.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ The Samaritans expected the Messiah.
  - ▶ But because they only accepted Torah, they knew very little about the Messiah (Gen. 3:15; Deut. 18:15).
  - ▶ They expected a Moses-like figure who would solve all of their problems.
  - ▶ They thought of him mainly as a teacher.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- *Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”*
- He introduced Himself (v. 26)
  - This is the only time before His trial when Jesus specifically said that He was the Messiah.



# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- The term did not have the political overtones in Samaria that it had in Judea.
- That may be part of the reason that Jesus used the designation here.

# Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ We know from what follows in the story that the woman believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
- ▶ She became an evangelist, introducing many men in her village to Jesus Christ.

# Loving Your Neighbor When You Speak (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ You will need to go to difficult places (v. 4).
- ▶ You must make contact (v 5).
- ▶ You must do your best to create interest in the gospel in the life of your friend (v. 10).

# Loving Your Neighbor When You Speak (John 4:1-26)

- ▶ You must establish a need in his/her life (vv. 13-14).
- ▶ You must confront sin (v. 16).
- ▶ You must stay on the subject (vv. 21-24).
- ▶ You must introduce the person to the Savior (v. 26).