

John 4:4

In this passage Jesus and his students are on a journey. They were going to their Jewish towns in the land of Galilee. Their journey was about 70 miles, and they were probably walking. They were traveling through the land of the Samaritans. The Samaritans were a people who were half-Jew and half-non-Jew. Their religion was half-Jewish and half pagan. The Jews and the Samaritans hated and avoided each other. On his journey Jesus stopped to rest at a well near a town in Samaria, and talked to a Samaritan woman.

You can read this passage at [John 4:4-26](#).

You can also listen to it by playing this three-minute audio file: [John 04 04 thru 04 26.mp3](#).

(1)

Think about [John 4:7-9](#).

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ... The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

- What did Jesus say to begin talking to this woman?
- What question did the woman ask Jesus? Why did she ask Jesus this?
- Why did Jesus not keep the hostile social customs between Jews and Samaritans?

Consider [John 6:38-39](#). (Jesus said) *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me ..."*

(2)

Think about [John 4:10](#).

Jesus answered her, "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."

- What two things did the woman not know?
- If the woman had known these things, what would have happened?
- What do you think Jesus meant by saying he gives living water?

Consider [John 7:37-39](#). (Jesus said) *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive,*

(3)

Think about [John 4:11-13](#).

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ... Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

- What problems did this woman think Jesus would have for him to give her water?
 - What problem did Jesus say everyone would have, who only drinks water of the earth?
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(4)

Think about [John 4:14](#).

(Jesus said to her) 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.

- What must we do with the water that Jesus gives, if we are never to be thirsty again?
- How do you think one can we do that?

Consider [John 15:4](#). (Jesus said) *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

The meaning of this word "abide" is: continue to stay; remain; depart not from.

- What does Jesus's water become in those who take it?
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(5)

Think about [John 4:19-20](#).

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our (Samaritan) fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you (Jews) say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

- What did this woman think was important for those who worship God?

Think about [John 4:21-24](#).

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ... 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."*

- What did Jesus say was important for those who worship God?
 - Why is this important? (See John 4:21-24 quoted above.)
Also consider [Matthew 15:7-9](#). (Jesus said to the Pharisees) *"You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me,"*
 - What is God seeking? (See John 4:21-24 quoted above.)
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(6)

Think about [John 4:25-26](#).

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

- What two things did this woman say about the Messiah?
 - What did Jesus say about the Messiah?
 - If Jesus is not the Messiah, what was he?
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