

John 4: 1-42. Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman.

John 4: 1-3 The Jewish leaders could be expected to arrive on the scene when they heard this news. The Lord Jesus did not want to confront them yet, so He moved away to Galilee. He was baptizing more disciples than John. Only people who had committed to Him as disciples were baptized. In fact it was His disciples who were actually baptizing under His authority!

4-6 He travelled through Samaria stopping at the well of Sychar.

7-8 A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus asks for a drink. His disciples were away for food.

9 The woman is surprised. The Jews normally would have nothing to do with Samaritans. They despised them because they were a mixed race people and because their religion was a mix of Old Testament and pagan religions.

10 Our Lord turns the conversation from the natural need for water to the spiritual need for eternal life. Natural water relieves thirst temporarily. The gift He gives will satisfy forever.

11-12 The woman is mystified.

13-14 Our Lord explains more fully His spiritual meaning.

15 She asks for this "living water".

16 The time has come for her conscience to be aroused.

17-18 The Lord knows about her immoral unfaithful life.

19 "You are a prophet" An admission of the truth revealed and, her guilt.

20 She brings up one of the great differences between The Jews and the Samaritans. Should we worship at Jerusalem or Mt. Gerizim?

21 A time is coming shortly when neither sacred place of worship will be regarded as THE official place.

22 He makes it clear that up to this time the Jewish worship was the one that led to salvation when properly understood.

23 The time has come with His coming to no longer have such sacred places but to worship from the heart in spirit and truth.

24 God is Spirit; present everywhere. Therefore spiritual worship offered directly to Him without sacred places or things is now most appropriate.

25-26 The woman expresses her belief in the coming of The Messiah who will explain everything. The Lord says "I am The Messiah". She was ready for this revelation. The Lord Jesus had overcome her indifference, her materialism, her prejudice, her blindness, and her sinfulness and had brought her to faith in Himself.

27 The disciples return surprised and mystified.

28-30 The woman leaving her water pot hurries into the village to tell the good news to her neighbours. And the people are aroused to come to The Saviour.

31-34 The disciples have brought the food, Jesus is not all that interested, He is engaged in something far more important. Reaching and teaching people; as instructed by His Father.

35-38 The Lord of the harvest wants His disciples to lift their eyes from the material to the spiritual. The grain harvest may be four months off but the harvest of souls is now. There is sowing and reaping for a harvest. Even so in spiritual harvest. Sowing – the initial contact with people awakening their interest. Reaping – Bringing them to a definite response of trust in Christ. Don't presume that you must wait a given time before the spiritual harvest is ready, some people are ready to respond to the Saviour Now!

39-42 Here is an immediate harvest resulting from sowing seed to one woman, an unlikely person. Many Samaritans are reaped! "He really is The Saviour of the World".

John 4: 43-54 Jesus Heals the Officials Son.

43-44 Jesus continued the journey to Galilee where He could expect to be treated with little respect in His home area. He was avoiding confrontation with the Jewish leaders.

45 The people's curiosity had been aroused by what had happened at Jerusalem.

46-47 He came again to Cana where a public official begged Him to heal his son.

48 The Lord challenges his limited faith. Signs – the miracle points to some great truth. Wonders – the effect of miracles causing wonder. "You will only believe in Me when you see the miracle"!

49 He expresses the little desperate faith he has in this urgent appeal for the Saviour's help.

50 His cry was heard, his faith rewarded and his faith increased. He accepted the Saviour's assurance that his son would live.

51-54 His confidence was confirmed as he went home. He and his household became convinced believers.