

That You May Believe and Have Life: A Study in John

John 4-5: The Witnesses

Review

1. Who is John? (John 21:24, Mark 5:37, 9:2, 12:33, John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7)
2. Why did John write the Gospel of John?
3. How does this Gospel differ from the other 3?
4. What is the goal of this study?

John 4:1-42

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples),³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria.⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)⁹ 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.)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."¹¹ 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?¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ 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.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ 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."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him....³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all

that I ever did." ⁴⁰ *So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.* ⁴¹ *And many more believed because of his word.* ⁴² *They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

1. What is significant about the place of this event's occurrence? What was Jacob's well?
2. What is striking about the fact that Jesus speaks to this woman at all?
3. What time is it? What is striking about the time of this woman's visit to the well?
4. Why is she so shocked at Jesus' request? What is Jesus' response?
5. What does the woman's response (v. 11 and 15) reveal about what she believes Christ to be speaking about?
6. How does Jesus cut to the heart of this woman's "thirst"? How does she respond to this?
7. In what ways (practically speaking) does Christ ask us this question and lay us bare in the church today?
8. What is the "theological" question she is asking, and how does Jesus answer it?
9. What can we learn about worship from what Jesus tells the woman?
 - a. "worship the Father"
 - b. "in spirit"
 - c. "and truth"
10. What are ways that the church today fails to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth? How can we better seek to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth?
11. What words does Christ use when he reveals himself to this woman?
 - a. *evgw, eivmi* (ego eimi)
12. What is this woman's response to these words? Is this what you would expect?
13. How do the people respond? What about her testimony caused them to seek Christ? What causes them to believe? What should this teach us about evangelism?

"Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17