

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ 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.)

¹⁰ 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."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² 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?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ 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."

¹⁵ 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."

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."

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."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

THE LIVING WATER IS FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIVING

I kind of thought I had everything I needed. Jesus is my champion against sin and Satan. And through faith, through believing in him I have eternal life. Throw in that Martin Luther College Choir with our choirs and I thought maybe we would all be in heaven either late Thursday night or Friday, but here we are this third Sunday in Lent, still making our way to everlasting life, and we need water.

It revitalizes your spirit.

In the Gospel for this third Sunday in Lent Jesus needed water too. Jesus had been making his way from Jerusalem in Judea and now was in Samaria in a town called Sychar. And since Jesus, through his incarnation, was a real human being, Jesus was tired from this journey and Jesus was thirsty. John the Apostle, in his Gospel, shares that the time of day was noon and that he and the other apostles had gone into town. Jesus was all alone because no one would go to Jacob's well to get water during the hottest time of the day unless that person wanted to be alone.

And that's what the Samaritan woman wanted. And even though she wasn't technically alone anymore, she hadn't envision Jesus talking to her because she was a Samaritan and Jesus was a Jew. But Jesus talks to her because even though Jesus had a Jewish mother, Jesus also has a divine father and His father through the Bible talks to all people. Jesus says to 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.” And based on the conversation that follows, the Samaritan woman didn’t know what Jesus was talking about.

As I *initially* studied this text, my first thought was how Jesus truly understands what men go through because women don’t understand us either. And yet, as I studied all of chapter four, the miscommunication between Jesus and the Samaritan woman wasn’t a division between the male and female mind, but a division between what is human and what is divine. Later in this same chapter the male disciples say to Jesus, *“Rabbi, eat something.”* But Jesus said to them, *“I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”* Then his disciples said to each other, *“Could someone have brought him food?”* *“My food,”* said Jesus, *“is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”*

And this is further proof that the Bible is God’s inspired Word because no human being would talk like this. No human being would talk like this to the Samaritan woman. And no human teacher would talk like this to his male disciples. It’s like Jesus wants people to struggle with his words. Because not only is this Samaritan woman and Jesus talking past each other, but they also carry out this conversation with a couple of awkward transitions and an incomplete ending.

Yet the rest of chapter 4 proves the Samaritan woman was revitalized in her spirit. The people she had been avoiding by drawing at noon were the very people she told about the Messiah. They believed her. They believed in Jesus. So where is the good news for us. The good news is Jesus always wants to associate with people. The good news is Jesus wants to associate with us. It has been that way since Adam and Eve and the Fall into sin. And the good news is Jesus is okay with people wrestling with his words. Jacob who had this well named after him had his name changed to Israel because Jacob literally wrestled with God all night and into the morning. We see this with Moses at the burning bush and Elijah when God appeared to him in a whisper on the mountain. We saw this with Peter and Paul and many others.

The Samaritans and the Jews didn’t associate with each other. The Samaritan woman didn’t have a great association with marriage. We don’t know the issues with her last husband, but the Samaritan woman had five of them and hadn’t married the man she was currently living with. And yet God was never done with this Samaritan woman, just as God was never done with the Jews or the Samaritans, just as God is never done with us or the people of this world. The living water of the Messiah wants to find us and wants us to wrestle with his words and be revitalized in our spirit to worship him in spirit and in truth.

It authenticates your worship.

This authenticates your worship. There will always be external matters when it comes to worship. Whether it was Mt Gerezim for the Samaritans or the Mount of Olives for the Jews, there will always be places of worship and buildings and Scripture and song. And yet where the Lord truly wants to plant and build his church is in your heart. The Lord wants the song to beat in your spirit and the Scripture to be on your lips and demonstrated with your hands. The rest of chapter four shares how this spirit and truth worship demonstrated itself between the Samaritan woman and the residents of Sychar. The rest of chapter four does share how this spirit and truth worship played itself out with the man who was living in her home.

And so maybe its worthwhile for us to ponder and pray how authentic spirit and truth worship is properly played out in our marriages and in the boys and girls, men and woman who could potentially one day be your husband or your wife. First, here in worship we are at our “Sunday best.” When we go to work we can have a “Chic-fil-A” attitude toward our customers, but find ourselves drained when we go home and live with the people we see every day. How is your “Home Owners’ Association” in your home? Who is seeking who when there is trouble? Who is there to wrestle with words until the spirits are revitalized and hopeful solutions have been offered?

It’s the one who most clearly understands their association with Jesus. Jesus is your bridegroom. Jesus through the living water of the gospel always wants to woo and win you. Jesus through the living water of the gospel has

made you his radiant wife. Yes, there are other people in the room, but his full attention is on you and your needs. And he is not only concerned about your eternal needs, but also your everyday living needs too. Yes, he gives time and attention to the lilies of the field and to the birds of the air by clothing them and feeding them, but you are much more valuable than they are. He never laid down his life for them, but he would lay down his life for you and he did. He always listens to your prayers. And he always speaks to you in his Word.

The most important person in your marriage is Jesus who through the Apostle Peter warns husbands to be considerate of their wives so that nothing would hinder your prayers and who instructs wives to win over their husbands without words, but with purity and reverence. These wells of godliness dry up quickly when we disengage ourselves from the living water of the gospel that comes from Jesus.

The one question I couldn't answer from our text or from the rest of chapter 4 was whether or not Jesus ever received the water he had asked for. It seems like the water from Jacob's well wasn't the reason Jesus was there. Jesus was there to give a woman the living water of the gospel and she gratefully received it. May we too gratefully receive the living water of the gospel we have received today and let the gospel revitalize us for our everyday living and all of our associations especially those we associate with every day. Amen.