

(1) Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself did not baptize, but only His disciples), He left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

(4) And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 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) A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 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.) 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? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 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."

(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." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 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. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 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*, for salvation is of the Jews.

(23) But the hour is coming, and now is 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."

(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." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Think on these things:

- 1) Let's learn about the Samaritans. Who are they, and why did the Jews despise and hate them so much? Consider these verses about life for the Jews after the nation split into Judah & Israel:

2 Kings 17:6, 24-34, 41 (Assyria & Israel) – **Assyria conquered and removed many of the Israelites from Israel, replacing them with other captives from modern-day Iraq. Then they sent one Jewish priest back (vs.27-28) to teach the peoples about Israel's God, but eventually anyone (v.32) could become a "Jewish" priest. In the end, these people worshiped the God of Israel, while also worshiping their ancestral gods in the mountains. They didn't really fear the Lord. It was a "worship God and..." situation, much like modern life that is guided by multiple religious belief systems (all paths lead to God). Over time they became a mixed-race, half-breed group.**

2 Kings 25:8-12 (Babylon & Judah) – **Babylon removed all Jews except the poorest of the poor.**

Ezra 4:1-6 and Nehemiah 4:1-9 (Trying to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple & City Wall) – **The Samaritans were hostile to returning Jews, opposing the Temple and city wall rebuild efforts.**

- 2) There is a double no-no here when Jesus speaks with the woman at the well. Can you figure out which two Jewish social codes were violated (v.9)?

1) A Jew speaking with a Samaritan; and 2) a man speaking to an unrelated woman in public.

- 3) Jesus used the term “living water” in His conversation (v.10). What is living water in the general sense, and what is living water as Jesus used the term? What/who does Jesus say is the source of living water, and, after one has it, how is it sustained? What does all this mean to us today?

Living water generally means **flowing water from a stream or river, as opposed to a still pond**

Living water as Jesus used it (see John 7:37-39) means **God the Holy Spirit now living within**

What/Who is the source, and how is it sustained? **Jesus is the source of this gift of Living Water in the life of believers. Once given, the H.S. continually fuels eternal life within believers. The John text is that Jesus willingly gives the H.S. liberally, without measure** (see John 3:34)

Meaning for today (we who do not see Jesus..., see v.14)? **The Holy Spirit placed within us will keep us tuned in to God and stirred up in fervor and service. He is our God-connection in life.**

- 4) Did the Samaritans worship the God of Israel? If yes, did they join the Jews in Jerusalem?

Yes, sort of.... They would worship Israel's God in Bethel or Shilo, and then worship their ancestral gods also...so they weren't devoted exclusively to Israel's God (Thou shalt have NO other gods before/beside Me). They were NOT permitted by the Jews to come and worship in Jerusalem. They were excluded as outcasts lacking a proper understanding of Israel's God.

- 5) From what people group does God teach the entire world about salvation? What does Jesus say is “true” worship of God? Does the location of worship matter anymore? How can you properly worship God when you come to church each week?

People group (v.22)? **The Jews**

True worship of God involves (vs.23-24) **Worship in the believer's spirit and (God's) truth**

Location of worship? **The location of worship is not important. The Jews had to cope with this truth (and reality) when they lost their nation and Temple worship in Jerusalem.**

(Can we now ‘ignore’ gathering in church weekly? Hebrews 10:19-25) – **No, we are to gather.**

How can we best come prepared to worship? **We must come to worship prepared in our spirit to meet and commune with God and His truth. Our minds tend to wander away from this focus, thinking instead of our personal problems, the morning's start, lunch that follows, etc... (encourage attenders to elaborate on things that draw their attention away from God while at church). As we settle into the chapel (even before church), we must concentrate on our reason for gathering, and take a few moments to pray, read scripture, and/or meditate upon the Lord.**

- 6) Who does Jesus say He is in verses 25-26? **Messiah (Hebrew), the Christ (Greek).**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: