



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 5 *"COME AND SEE"*

John chapter 3 ends with a discourse by John the Baptist, declaring Jesus as God's Son, in whom everlasting life is found. His statement in 3:36 almost sounds like John is giving an altar call as he boldly presents Jesus as the One who gives life.

We begin chapter 4 with Jesus departing from Judea and traveling to Galilee to avoid a premature conflict with the religious leaders. It wasn't yet time to confront them or reveal Himself to them, so Jesus moves on. We must remember that Jesus is on a Heavenly timetable and He has a few important stops to make. A number of people come to a saving faith in Christ in this chapter and Jesus' approach is always different. He doesn't have a "cookie-cutter" way of presenting the Gospel. Jesus liked to use the physical as an illustration of the spiritual. We especially notice this in His encounter with the woman at the well. God still speaks to us in the same way, doesn't He? He uses situations in our everyday life to draw our attention to a deeper spiritual truth He wants to show us. I pray that as we study this week, we will be aware of God's still, small voice speaking to us through our daily life.

First Day

1. Read John 4:1-38. Observe and list the facts found in this section. Try writing yourself some questions about the text, then answering them. For instance, "Who are the main characters? The main characters are ..."

2. Are there any repeated words or phrases? What is the main point of this section?
3. From this story, how is Christ's humanity clearly seen? His deity?
4. Contrast Nicodemus from chapter 3 with the woman at the well. How are they different? Are there any similarities?
5. What do you learn about Jesus from this section? About man?
6. How does this section support the main theme of the Gospel of John?

I pray that this chapter makes you thirsty for the Living Water. Jesus says, "Drink of this water and you will never thirst again." (vs 13)
Take a big gulp of Jesus!

Memory Verse of the Week: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

Second Day

Study your memory verse. Are you worshipping Him today?

1. Let's begin today by reading John 4:1-26. Why did Jesus leave Judea?
2. Why did He go through Samaria?
3. Jesus asked the woman for a drink. How does she respond?

Jesus sits down because He was weary. It had been a long trip. Jesus and His disciples had left Judea and traveled almost three days, most likely in the hot sun. The word "left" in verse 3 is "atheken" and it conveys the meaning of leaving something to itself, to its own fate, of withdrawing whatever controlling power was exercised before. This is an important word because from this point on, most of Jesus' ministry will be in Galilee and other places. He would leave Jerusalem and Judea to their own devices.

Jesus sits down by a well in the city of Sychar, which was a little walled village. John says it was about "the sixth hour." There is a little debate about exactly what time this is. If John is using Jewish time, it would be high noon. If, like some argue, John used Roman time throughout his Gospel, it would be about six o'clock in the evening.

Jesus continues to minister, even when He is weary. Oswald Sanders wrote (Spiritual Leadership): "The world is run by tired men." Anne Ortlund said, "Nowhere in the Bible are we told to slow down and take it easy." Rather, we are to press on, run the race, fight the good fight. Rest and recreation shouldn't be our priority. In his book, Behold the Lamb, Kent Hughes said this: "Most souls are won for Christ by tired people. The best sermons are preached by tired men. The best camps are run by exhausted youth ministers, the world is being evangelized by tired missionaries, Christian organizations are being run by tired people." He goes on to say, "It

The fact that Jesus traveled through Samaria is a big deal. When traveling from Judea to Galilee, most Jews would have taken the longer and more common way: up the Jordan Valley. The way Jesus went was considered a shortcut, but the Jews usually wouldn't consider it because of their hatred of the Samaritans. The Samaritan race had been planted there by the Assyrians, 700 years before (2 Kings 17:6, 24, 26, 29; Ezra 5:1, 9, 10). John Phillips, in his book, Exploring the Gospels, explains the situation: "When the northern ten tribes were led into captivity by the Assyrians, the conquerors brought foreign settlers into the territory. Before long these newcomers adopted a distorted form of Judaism. The Jews of Judea rejected them and their clumsy attempts to imitate the Hebrew religion, refusing to have anything to do with them. Later, after the Jews themselves had suffered through Babylonian captivity and returned to repossess their homeland, they found the Samaritans still entrenched in the land. When the Jews wanted to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem, their overtures were rejected. The resulting enmity was fostered on both sides and grew increasingly bitter as years went by (2 Kings 17:24-29; Ezra 4:1-5; Nehemiah 2:10, 19; 4:1-3). The Samaritan's answer to the Jewish temple was to build a rival temple on Mount Gerizim for themselves."

Their hatred can be seen by a famous saying of Jewish rabbis: "Let no man eat the bread of the Samaritans, for he who eats their bread is as he who eats swine flesh," and "Lord, do not remember the Samaritans in the resurrection." The Samaritans hated the Jews for rejecting them and would often refuse to provide overnight shelter to Jews who were traveling between Galilee and Jerusalem. It's also important to note that Jewish men did not speak to Jewish women. Their attitude can best be described by this quote, "He that talks much with womankind brings evil upon himself." One of the Jewish prayers included the phrase, "Blessed are thou, O Lord ... who has not made me a woman." (The Gospel according to John, from the New International Commentary.)

10. Jesus reaches out to a Samaritan woman with a bad reputation (vs 18). (She had three strikes against her.) What does that teach us about Jesus? How should we apply that to our life?

11. The Samaritans can symbolize a particular person or race that you don't like. It may be your neighbor that you just can't stand. It may be a family member whom you want nothing to do with. **Ladies, who is your Samaritan?** Whom are you supposed to reach out to? (James 2:1-13)

Jesus overrides any barriers to reach out to a lost, empty, searching woman. His love knows no bounds. He loves those who are social outcasts. He is not a respecter of persons. (Romans 2:11) Spend some time thanking the Lord for loving you, too. See you tomorrow.

Third Day

Work on your memory verse.

1. Read John 4:1-38 again. In verse 13-14, what does Jesus say about the Living Water?
2. What are some other "wells" or "springs" that people try to drink from? Will they bring satisfaction?

As the woman begins to show interest, Jesus puts His finger on her heart. Before the Lord gives eternal life, He deals with the issue of sin. She obviously had been living a life of promiscuity and sexual sin. Jesus brings her face to face with her own personal sin. We can't escape His penetrating look. Nothing is hidden from Him. (1 Corinthians 4:5)

3. When He confronts her, what does she do?

4. Is that your response when the Lord deals with your sin? Do you change the subject and try to divert the attention to something else?
Is He trying to speak to your heart right now on some issue? Deal with your sin. Confess it and repent, so that you may be forgiven.

The Samaritans worshipped on Mount Gerizim, while the Jews worshipped in Jerusalem. The woman tried to use this point of difference to get the attention off of her. Jesus tells her it's not where you worship, it's how you worship and whom you worship.

5. Whom are we to worship? How are we to worship?
(What do you think it means to worship "in spirit and truth"?)

6. How does she respond in verse 25?

Jesus claims openly that He is the Messiah in verse 26. This is the only time Jesus admitted this before His trial.

7. The disciples came back from getting dinner and were amazed that Jesus was talking to her. If they were His disciples, why were they so shocked?
8. What is the first thing the woman did after she finally understood who Jesus was?
9. What different names or titles did she use for Jesus? Read 4:9, 11, 19, 29. Notice the progression as her understanding deepened.

10. The disciples tried to feed Jesus, but He wasn't ready to eat. He was still sharing and ministering. What lesson does He give the disciples in verses 34-38? Why can the one who sows and the one who reaps rejoice together?

Perhaps the disciples hadn't expected to find a harvest in Samaria. They didn't seem to be looking for opportunities to share Jesus; they were busy looking for food. Others may have already planted seeds in Samaria, perhaps even John the Baptist. We are all called to work together, and not compete, to win souls for Jesus. The disciples needed to learn to look for the harvest; the souls may be ripe for the picking, even in Samaria.

11. What was Jesus' entire focus while here on earth, according to verse 34?
12. Ladies, I must ask you this: What's your focus while on this earth? Is it, like Jesus, to do the Father's will and finish the work He's called you to do? (How do we practically do that while raising our families, working, etc?)

Today the fields are white for the harvest. Today is the day to win lost souls for Christ. We can't wait until tomorrow because it may never come. We are called to be laborers together, doing the Lord's work. Let's get busy! After all, that's what life is all about.

Sink your bucket deep into His well and drink from the Living Waters. His water is satisfying; His water is filling. Only the Living Water can quench the thirst in our parched and dry soul. Don't be searching for other wells to wet your whistle. Don't try to drink from the spring of success or the waters of wealth. Don't go for the fountains of fame or the ponds of love. Drink from the well that has the Living Water and let it spring forth from your life. See you tomorrow!

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse? Are you worshipping Him in truth?

1. Today let's read John 4:39-54. Observe and list the facts you find in this section. Who are the main characters? Are there any repeated words?
2. How does this section support John's main theme of his Gospel?
3. Now our scene changes back to the city of Sychar. Did the people of the town believe that woman? What really cemented their faith?
4. Why is the phrase "the Savior of the world" so significant? Why was it so important to this people group?

5. The witness of one woman with a changed life made a huge impact on a city. How does that encourage you? Challenge you?

6. What kind of impact are you making on your world for Christ? Your neighborhood? Your family? (Can they see a change in your life?)

7. When Jesus arrived in Galilee, did the people receive Him?

Jesus now goes back to Cana, where all the people had heard about the water that He had changed into wine . (I wonder if they had heard about the woman He had changed and filled to the brim with Living Water!) Jesus meets a royal official, a prestigious person, who may have been one of Herod's officers. That doesn't seem to matter now. He has a son that lives in Capernaum, about 22 miles away, with a major problem. Notice that it isn't Herod that he turns to.

8. What does the nobleman ask Jesus to do?

The word "implored" in verse 47 carries the meaning of continuous action, "kept beseeching" or "begging Him over and over." He was a desperate father that was looking for help. It doesn't appear that Jesus is rebuking this man in verse 48, but commenting over the general spiritual condition of the people. He was becoming more of a "side-show" as people heard about Him. Jesus wanted them to think less of the wonders and more of Him. I think He still feels that way today.

9. When you are in need, where do you run? Do you pray diligently, without ceasing, and persistently? Do you have a need today? Have you taken it to Jesus?

We'll end here and finish the story of the nobleman tomorrow. It doesn't matter if we are a social outcast, like the woman at the well, or a person of prestige, like the nobleman. We all **need** to place our trust in Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

Today let's finish the story of the nobleman and his sick son. Isn't it interesting that Jesus' first miracle in Cana had to do with a mother, and the second had to do with a father? Hmm...

1. Read John 4:46-54. Did the nobleman believe that Jesus could heal his son? What part of his faith is admirable? What part is wrong?
2. The man believed Jesus because of His Word. He didn't wait until he saw his son. What lesson is in that for us?
3. Do you often wait until you see it before you believe it? How is this "not" true faith?
4. What does the fact that Jesus didn't have to be present to heal the boy show us about God?

Warren Wiersbe, in his commentary on John, gives us a good picture of this man's faith. He said "The nobleman began with a **crisis** faith, which became a **confident** faith when he believed Jesus' words. His **confident** faith became a **confirmed** faith when he heard his son was actually healed. He had a **contagious** faith because he shared his faith with others."

5. Do you have any problems? From the above paragraph, which stage of faith are you in? Are you still in crisis or have you progressed? (How do we actually progress?)

6. The nobleman's faith was confirmed as he heard what time it was when his son was healed. What are some ways the Lord confirms our faith today?

7. The nobleman was not too "big" to admit his need. He also wasn't too proud to believe and trust in *God's Word*. Are you struggling through a trial because you won't admit you need help? Cast those cares on Him right now, for He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

8. What specific point in this section speaks directly to your own heart?

**"All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen"
(2 Corinthians 1:20).
That's a "Reason to Rejoice!"**

