

# John 4vs1-18

Thirst-quenching offer

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# Thirst-quenching offer

## John 4 vs 1-18

In ch 3 we looked at who Jesus is, and how we get into his kingdom. Now we see:

- What does Jesus offer?
- And to whom is the offer made?

The shock is that this offer comes to the most unlikely person...

*JOHN 4 vs 1-18: Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> 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.*

*<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> 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.) <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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." <sup>15</sup> 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."*

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."*

### **Setting the scene...**

#### 1) JACOB

- One of the founding fathers of Israel
- In fact, the grandson of Abraham - and known as "Israel"

Jacob was promised that he would:

- Experience God's blessing
- Experience God's presence
- Be the father of God's people
- The 12 tribes of Israel are named after ten of his twelve sons, and after two of his grandsons descended from his son Joseph... that's Joseph of "Amazing Technicolor dream coat" fame.

v 6: ***Jacob's well***

- The Well of Jacob – is a key site in the original "Promised Land"
- v 5 tell us it is situated at "***the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph***"
- It's an important holy place to the Jews... and still visited today

2) THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

- Samaria was the most northern part of Israel.
- When Samaria was overrun by the Assyrians in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC, the Assyrians moved into the area other nations/backgrounds and faiths who the Assyrians had defeated.
- The Assyrian intent was to crush nationalism and particularly here – Judaism... successfully destroying the purity of the Jewish people in one go through inter-racial marriage.

Hence, over time, a "Samaritan" was totally despised by the Jews – viewed as a mixed race – with a mixed religion. They were therefore not allowed to worship in the temple in Jerusalem.

In short, the Samaritans were viewed as a mixed-up people... and certainly not Jewish!

JOHN 4 v 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."*

What is "***the gift of God***"?

- Answer: "***Living Water***"

What of the water that Jesus offers?

v 14: “...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.”

Jesus is using water (H<sub>2</sub>O) and the life that it brings as picture language for the spiritual life that he offers.

WHAT a contrast:

- From Jacob’s well - just a temporary thirst quench...

v 13: ***Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again”***

- From Jesus – v 14 ***ETERNAL Life*** – never ending... fulfilling.

v 14: “...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.”

This is a constant message from Jesus... Let’s look again at John chapter 3 v 36:

***“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”***

So... We have begun to see that the life Jesus offers includes the following:

- His living presence...
- His Holy Spirit...
- Forever...
- Starting NOW!

Just as we saw in John 1 v 33: ***“THIS is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit”*** we can now understand:

- You can only truly give of something if it is yours to give – so Jesus is giving of himself... as God!
- The Spirit = GOD WITHIN... means...
  - God takes up residence within us!
  - The presence of God himself within us - makes us satisfied – FULL!

## ***Expect the unexpected...***

Who is this offer made to?

- Jesus is talking to a (despised) Samaritan:

JOHN 4 v 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.)*

- To the Jews, what is even worse is that Jesus is talking a woman!! Just see the disciples reaction in the verse below... part of our next study:

JOHN 4 v 27: *Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”*

Just think of the last two characters that Jesus has talked to... as if they were in the boxing ring... with all the makings of a “spiritual” contest!

### In the Left Hand Corner:

- A non-Jew (a Samaritan)!
- A woman no less!
- Married 5 times  
v 18: “...**for you have had five husbands**” ...so not great at relationships!
- Living in sin:  
v 18: “...**and the one you now have is not your husband.**”
- There is a name for her... and it’s not polite!

### In the Right Hand Corner

- The high and mighty Nicodemus of John chapter 3:
  - “**The teacher of Israel**”
- Who Jesus told must be “**born again**”

So what does this study tell us about who Jesus offers eternal life to?

- Here we have Jesus giving himself ... in “worldly terms” ... to the lowest of the low
- She is an absolute fit for the world’s view of a “sinner”!
- And yet we have been told...

JOHN 3 vs 16-17: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

- Jesus clearly crosses over the following distinct barriers of:
  - Race
  - Sex
  - Religion
  - Morality
  
- In contrast to the 'snooty' behaviour of the "pure" law-abiding Jews - "God's People"
  - .... we see God giving himself to the rank outsider:
    - NOT a Jew,
    - a woman no less...
    - ...and racially and morally impure!

### ***So what is the conclusion?...***

Jesus has come to make the offer of God's Kingdom to the whole world!!

### ***What comes next...***

- Clarity as to who Jesus is
  
- A real lesson for the disciples!
  
- A village transformed!

## *John 4 vs 1-18*

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