



Evangelism: Jesus and the Samaritan woman

John 4:1-42



The text – John 4:1-42

1. This account of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman is not found in Matthew, Mark or Luke. It is the longest conversation that Jesus has with an individual recorded in the Scriptures. John tells us that "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25). How significant is this event in the writing of John? Why is it so important?
2. Who were the Samaritans? Find out about the Samaritans. Note John's comment in 4:9.
3. Why was this unnamed Samaritan woman coming to draw water from the well at noon? What might her reasons have been for coming to the well in the middle of the day?
4. What does Jesus mean by "living water"? See John 4:10-14.
5. Why does Jesus turn the conversation to her husband in 4:16? Discuss the conversation in 4:16-20.
6. What do the words of 4:23 mean – "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. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth"?
7. In John 4:26, Jesus reveals himself to the woman as the Messiah. What is the significance of the words, "I am he"?
8. In this passage, Jesus is both thirsty and hungry. What does he mean by the words of 4:32? Also see 4:34. Discuss the meaning of these words.

The Scriptures – John 4:1-42 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. The "I am" statements of Jesus are very important in John's gospel account. Compare what Jesus says of himself in 4:26 with the following passages: John 6:48, John 8:12, John 8:58-59, John 10:11, John 11:25-26, and John 14:6.
10. In Old Testament Scripture, living water is sometimes associated with the LORD God. He is called "the spring of living water" in Jeremiah 2:13 and 17:13. Discuss what "living water" means. Also notice how Jesus connects "living water" with the "Holy Spirit" in John 7:37-39.
11. The OT Scriptures look forward to the day when people will worship God "in the Spirit and in truth". Read and discuss the wonderful prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34 in this regard.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to John 4:1-42 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. What is "evangelism"? Are you an evangelist? Discuss times when you have shared the good news of Jesus with others. What happened?
13. John often speaks about people being "witnesses" to Jesus. What is a "witness"? Does this word help you to think about sharing your faith in Jesus with others?
14. How can we encourage and pray for you in your discipleship as we seek to love God and live as witnesses of Jesus?