

Week 4

7-Day Expository Bible Study through John 4

Living Water, True Worship, and the Savior of the World

Memory Verse:

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.”

— John 4:23

Day 1 – Jesus Meets the Woman at the Well

John 4:1–9

Theme: Jesus crosses barriers of shame, ethnicity, and hostility to seek sinners with grace.

Exegetical Reflection

Why does Jesus leave Judea and go toward Galilee?

Jesus leaves Judea after the Pharisees hear that His disciples are baptizing more people than John. John clarifies that Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were. Jesus’ movement is purposeful and under the timing of God.

Why is it significant that Jesus “had to pass through Samaria”?

Geographically, many Jews avoided Samaria because of hostility between Jews and Samaritans. But John’s wording shows more than geography. Jesus had a divine appointment. He goes where grace intends to go.

Why is the woman surprised that Jesus speaks to her?

She is a Samaritan woman, and Jesus is a Jewish man. There were ethnic, religious, social, and moral barriers between them. Yet Jesus initiates the conversation.

Personal Reflection

What does this passage reveal about the grace of Christ?

Jesus does not wait for sinners to make themselves clean, respectable, or acceptable. He comes near in grace. His mercy moves toward people others avoid.

How does this passage confront pride and prejudice?

Jesus exposes the sinful barriers people build around ethnicity, reputation, gender, religious background, and personal history. The Savior is not limited by human divisions.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Jesus seeks sinners with intentional, barrier-crossing grace.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the mercy of Christ that comes near to the ashamed and outcast. Repent of pride, prejudice, or avoiding people Jesus is willing to seek.

Hands – What should we do?

Identify one person or group you are tempted to avoid. Pray for God to give you Christlike compassion and courage to move toward them with grace.

Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You for coming near to sinners. Teach me to see people with Your compassion.”

Day 2 – The Gift of Living Water

John 4:10–15

Theme: Jesus offers living water that satisfies the deepest thirst of the soul.

Exegetical Reflection

What does Jesus mean by “the gift of God”?

Jesus points the woman beyond the water in the well to the grace God gives through Him. The gift is not earned or purchased. It is received from Christ.

Why does the woman misunderstand Jesus?

She thinks only in earthly categories. She focuses on physical water, the depth of the well, and Jacob’s greatness. Jesus is speaking of spiritual life.

What does Jesus promise to give?

Jesus promises living water that becomes a spring of water welling up to eternal life. He offers lasting satisfaction and spiritual life that no earthly source can provide.

Personal Reflection

What does this passage reveal about human thirst?

Human beings are spiritually thirsty. We seek satisfaction in created things, relationships, pleasure, success, comfort, control, and approval. But none of these can finally satisfy the soul.

Why is Jesus the only one who can give living water?

Because the thirst beneath every thirst is ultimately for God. Only Christ reconciles us to God and gives eternal life by His grace.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Jesus alone gives the living water of eternal life.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the sufficiency of Christ. Repent of looking to temporary things to satisfy eternal thirst.

Hands – What should we do?

Write down one “well” you keep returning to for satisfaction. Ask Jesus to turn your desire toward Him.

Prayer:

“Jesus, give me the living water only You can provide. Satisfy my soul in Yourself.”

Day 3 – Exposed by Grace

John 4:16–19

Theme: Jesus exposes sin not to crush sinners, but to lead them to truth, grace, and life.

Exegetical Reflection

Why does Jesus tell the woman to call her husband?

Jesus brings her hidden life into the light. He is not changing the subject. He is lovingly exposing the very place where her thirst and brokenness are evident.

What does Jesus reveal about her life?

Jesus reveals that she has had five husbands and that the man she now has is not her husband. He knows her fully and speaks truthfully.

How does the woman respond?

She recognizes that Jesus is a prophet. She begins to see that Jesus is more than an ordinary Jewish man asking for water.

Personal Reflection

What does this passage teach about conviction?

Conviction is not cruelty when it comes from Christ. Jesus exposes sin because hidden sin keeps us enslaved. Grace does not ignore truth; grace brings truth into the light for healing.

Why is it comforting that Jesus knows everything about us?

Because He knows the worst and still moves toward sinners with mercy. We do not need to pretend before Him.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Jesus sees the whole truth about us and still offers grace.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the honesty of Christ. Repent of hiding sin, minimizing sin, or resisting His loving exposure.

Hands – What should we do?

Confess one hidden or avoided area of your life to God. Bring it into the light with honesty.

Prayer:

“Jesus, You know me completely. Expose what needs to be healed and lead me in truth.”

Day 4 – Worship in Spirit and Truth

John 4:20–26

Theme: True worship is not centered on location or tradition, but on the Father through the Son by the Spirit.

Exegetical Reflection

Why does the woman ask about worship?

After Jesus exposes her life, she raises the long-standing dispute between Jews and Samaritans about the proper place of worship. Her question may reflect genuine concern, possible deflection, or both.

What does Jesus teach about worship?

Jesus says the hour is coming when worship will not be centered on Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem. True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

What does Jesus reveal about Himself?

When the woman speaks of the coming Messiah, Jesus says, “I who speak to you am he.” He openly reveals Himself as the Messiah.

Personal Reflection

What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?

Worship in spirit means worship that is made alive by the work of the Spirit, not mere outward ritual. Worship in truth means worship shaped by God’s revelation, centered on Christ, and consistent with who God is.

How does Jesus transform worship?

Jesus is the fulfillment of temple-centered worship. Through Him, sinners come to the Father. Worship is no longer tied to a mountain because the Messiah has come.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that true worship is through Christ, by the Spirit, according to the truth of God.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the Father who seeks true worshipers. Repent of empty ritual, distracted worship, or worship based on preference rather than truth.

Hands – What should we do?

Prepare for worship this week by asking God to engage your mind, heart, and life in the truth of Christ.

Prayer:

“Father, make me a true worshiper. Teach me to worship You in spirit and truth.”

Day 5 – From Shame to Witness

John 4:27–30

Theme: Encountering Christ turns shame-filled sinners into joyful witnesses.

Exegetical Reflection

How do the disciples respond when they return?

They are surprised that Jesus is speaking with a woman, but they do not question Him openly. Their surprise reveals the social barriers Jesus has crossed.

What does the woman leave behind?

She leaves her water jar. This detail shows the shift in her focus. The physical water she came for is no longer the main concern because she has encountered Christ.

What does the woman say to the people?

She says, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” Her testimony is simple, honest, and inviting.

Personal Reflection

What does this passage teach about witness?

Witness does not require having every answer. The woman simply tells what Christ has done and invites others to come and see.

How does grace change shame?

The very story that once marked her shame becomes part of her witness. Christ does not erase the truth; He redeems it.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Christ can turn a broken past into a testimony of grace.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the redeeming mercy of Jesus. Repent of letting shame silence your witness.

Hands – What should we do?

Share one simple testimony this week: what Jesus has shown you, forgiven in you, or changed in you.

Prayer:

“Jesus, redeem my story and give me courage to point others to You.”

Day 6 – The Food of Doing the Father’s Will

John 4:31–38

Theme: Jesus’ mission is to do the Father’s will and gather a harvest of redeemed people.

Exegetical Reflection

What do the disciples misunderstand?

They urge Jesus to eat, but Jesus speaks of food they do not understand. Like the woman earlier, they are thinking mainly in earthly categories.

What does Jesus mean by His food?

Jesus says His food is to do the will of Him who sent Him and to accomplish His work. His deepest satisfaction is obedience to the Father’s saving mission.

What does Jesus teach about the harvest?

Jesus tells His disciples to lift up their eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest. The Samaritan response is already showing that God’s saving work is broader than they expected.

Personal Reflection

What does this passage reveal about the mission of Christ?

Jesus is not accidentally helping one woman. He is accomplishing the Father’s mission to save. His work gathers people into eternal life.

How should this reshape the disciples’ view of mission?

They must see people not as interruptions, outsiders, or enemies, but as fields ready for harvest. God’s saving purpose reaches beyond their assumptions.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Jesus is committed to the Father's mission of saving sinners.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the mission of God. Repent of spiritual blindness, apathy, or seeing people as interruptions rather than souls.

Hands – What should we do?

Lift up your eyes today. Notice one person around you who may be spiritually thirsty and pray for an opportunity to speak with them.

Prayer:

"Father, open my eyes to the harvest and align my heart with Your mission."

Day 7 – The Savior of the World

John 4:39–54

Theme: Jesus is the Savior of the world, and true faith rests in His word.

Exegetical Reflection

How do the Samaritans respond to the woman's testimony?

Many believe because of her testimony, and then many more believe because they hear Jesus for themselves. Their confession grows deeper as they encounter Christ personally.

What do the Samaritans confess about Jesus?

They say, “We know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” This is a remarkable confession. Jesus is not merely Savior of Jews, but Savior of the world.

What happens when Jesus returns to Galilee?

An official comes to Jesus because his son is sick. Jesus tells him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believes the word Jesus speaks and goes.

What does the healing of the official's son reveal?

It reveals the authority of Jesus' word. He does not need to be physically present at the bedside to heal. His word gives life.

Personal Reflection

What kind of faith does John 4 commend?

John shows a movement from sign-based interest toward faith that rests in the person and word of Jesus. The official believes Jesus' word before he sees the result.

Why is it important that Jesus is called the Savior of the world?

The gospel is not limited by ethnicity, geography, social class, gender, or reputation. Christ saves Jews, Samaritans, officials, outcasts, and all who believe in Him.

Application

Head – What should we know?

Know that Jesus is the Savior of the world and His word has life-giving authority.

Heart – What should we love or repent of?

Love the global grace of Christ. Repent of small views of His mercy or faith that demands signs before trusting His word.

Hands – What should we do?

Choose one promise or command of Jesus and obey it today before you see the outcome.

Prayer:

“Jesus, Savior of the world, help me trust Your word and rest in Your authority.”

Closing Encouragement

John 4 shows us the grace, truth, and mission of Jesus.

He seeks the woman at the well.

He offers living water.

He exposes sin with mercy.

He teaches true worship.

He turns shame into witness.

He opens His disciples' eyes to the harvest.

He is confessed as the Savior of the world.

He speaks a word, and life comes.

This chapter reminds us that Jesus is not afraid of sinners.

He is not limited by social barriers.

He is not impressed by empty religion.

He is not indifferent to hidden shame.

He is not slow to show mercy.

John 4 reminds you that:

- Jesus seeks sinners with intentional grace.
- Jesus alone satisfies the thirst of the soul.
- Jesus exposes sin in order to heal.
- True worship is in spirit and truth.
- Grace turns shame into witness.
- The harvest is wider than we often see.
- Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- His word is powerful enough to give life.

So come thirsty.

Come honestly.

Come out of hiding.

Come worship the Father through the Son by the Spirit.

Then go and tell others:

“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.”