



John 4

Message Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlvbPhDAUAI>

John 4:3-19, 24-26

So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”...

[Then Jesus said,] “God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”

If the church is full of faith, is discerning, and is prayerful, God can bring about holistic, powerful, positive change.

- The church needs to be smart and seize this moment.

The heart of Jesus can be seen by who He chose to join His mission.

- No other individual has so shaken the planet spiritually and sociologically.
- In John 4, Jesus chooses someone to bring great change to Samaria.
 - Samaria was the capital of Judea.
 - He needed someone to be the catalyst and He picked this woman.
 - She would be responsible for thousands of people coming to Christ.

There are three different types of people Jesus chooses and uses:

1. Damaged People -

- The woman at the well
 - She had been married 5 times and was now living with a man who she was not married to.
 - Do not spiritualize these stories.
 - She was a real person with real baggage.
 - Would we choose her?
 - We tend to judge people.
 - This woman was likely divorced by her husbands every time.
 - By the time she finally gets to man #6 she has likely given up on men.

- Then she meets Jesus
 - He only wants to show her His heart.
 - She is highly effective and brings the Gospel to her whole village.
 - Matthew
 - Hebrew tax collector
 - Jew collecting taxes from his neighbors for their enemy.
 - Despised by society
 - Jesus chose Matthew to be His disciple.
 - Matthew 9:11
 - *When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*
 - God loves to choose and use messy, broken people.
 - But once you are touched by His love, you won't be satisfied with being messy anymore.
 - With Jesus, prostitutes become pure, traitors become loyal

2. Diverse People

- Most Jews would go out of their way to avoid Samaria because there was so much disdain toward Samaritans.
 - Racism is always stupid and makes no sense.
 - Samaritans were seen as half breeds because they were half Jewish, half Gentile.
 - Jews would not even speak to Samaritans.
- The Romans wanted a racist world. They used it as a tool to subdue conquered people.
 - They were not heavy handed.
 - Allowed local customs and puppet kings like Herod.
 - Unlike other Conquerors who spurred rebellions.
 - They figured out that if they got the people groups to fight amongst themselves, they would forget the true enemy was the Romans.

- Who profits from your prejudice?
- Who benefits from your bigotry?
- Jesus gives birth to the church
 - He uses Romans, Greeks, Paul (a Jew who understands Greek culture and customs), poor people, rich people, men and women together.
 - Galatians 3:28
There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - We are all ONE in Christ Jesus.
 - Not eliminating our differences, but coming together as one.
 - Early church you saw different races, classes, and genders working together to further the Gospel.

Our church is diverse. It's beautiful but complicated.
In times like this we need to learn from each other.

Interview with Pastor Scott & Anthony Evans

- As a white Christian leader, what is something I probably don't know that I need to know?
 - There are certain circumstances where one person's whisper can be louder than someone else's yell.
 - We all have something to learn from each other.
- How do we not be satisfied with just not building walls? We need to deconstruct them.
 - Most are not intentionally promoting the racist agenda, but it's time to look at how we can tear it down.
- What can we do to tear down the walls? Often we are silent out of fear of being misunderstood.
 - Society can't cancel the truth and love.
 - We are coming out of a global pandemic into recognizing the racial epidemic.

- Like the COVID-19 virus, it does not matter where you live or who you are, we all had a role to play to take out this “invisible” enemy.
- Racism is a virus against humanity.
- What are your thoughts on the different responses?
 - Violence is not the answer, but righteous anger is warranted.
 - Never allow your emotions to take over your intellect.
 - Emotions need to be the caboose and intellect and logic need to be the engine.
 - In a war, you don’t care the color of the person next to you, as long as we are focusing on the same enemy.
 - You need to be careful of who you listen to.
 - We’re not going to fix it right at this moment, but every single person can begin to affect their sphere.
 - Every one of us has a unique responsibility and opportunity to respond.
- Be slow to be offended during this time.
 - Align our words, thoughts, and methodology with the two Kings: #1 King Jesus and #2 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - *“Violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problem: it merely creates new and more complicated ones. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding: it seeks to annihilate rather than convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends up defeating itself. It created bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.”* - Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. Dusty People

- Dusty feet from dusty roads.
 - Though they were often oppressed, the Jews always pressed into education.
 - All children ages 7-10 went to school to study the Torah.
 - At age 10, they were sent home to learn a trade, but the smartest would stay to study the commentary on the Torah. Then they were dismissed to go home.
 - The smartest of those would study the commentary of the commentary. Then dismissed to go home.
 - Except the smartest of the smartest who were invited to be disciples of prominent Rabbis.
 - a. Rabbis were the “rockstars” of Jesus’ day.
 - b. You followed the Rabbi wherever he went and the more closely you followed him, the more blessed you were.

May you be covered in the dust of your Rabbi.

- The whole world is broken and its only hope is Jesus.
 - Our mission is to bring broken people to Jesus.
 - Let them see the dust of Jesus when they look at us.
- September 11, 2001
 - First responders were so covered in the dust of the towers that it was difficult to see the color of their skin, but even if you could... The first thing you saw was the dust.
- In Galatians 3:28, Paul means we don’t abandon our background, but we recognize there is something more important: that we be covered in Jesus’ grace and forgiveness.

Jesus prayed, not for our sameness, but for our ONEness.

See our diversity, but don’t miss our dust.

Discussion Starters

Remember to pick and choose which questions
make the most sense for your LifeGroup.

1. Read John 4:3-19, 24-26. Who is someone you've seen God use who you once thought was too damaged?
2. How are you affected after seeing the woman at the well as a real person instead of an over-spiritualized Bible character?
3. What "messy" area of your life has changed the most drastically since coming to know Christ?
4. What are some prejudices you have realized and worked to overcome lately?
5. How have you seen one person's whisper be louder than another person's yell?
6. How can we make sure our emotions do not overtake our intellect?
7. How can you begin to affect your sphere?
8. What is your biggest takeaway from Dr. King's quote?
9. Are you as excited about following Jesus as the Jews were to follow a prominent Rabbi? Why or why not?
10. How can you stay covered in the dust of your Rabbi, Jesus?