

JOHN

Chapter 4

Note from Kathy

Jesus is such a beautiful example of living with purpose. He is the life and light of the world. Oh, that we would always be ready to share this "good news." We too should view our conversations as opportunities to make an eternal difference in someone's life. After you finish your study this week why not take a few minutes and ask the Lord to help you recognize these opportunities so you too can seize the moment.

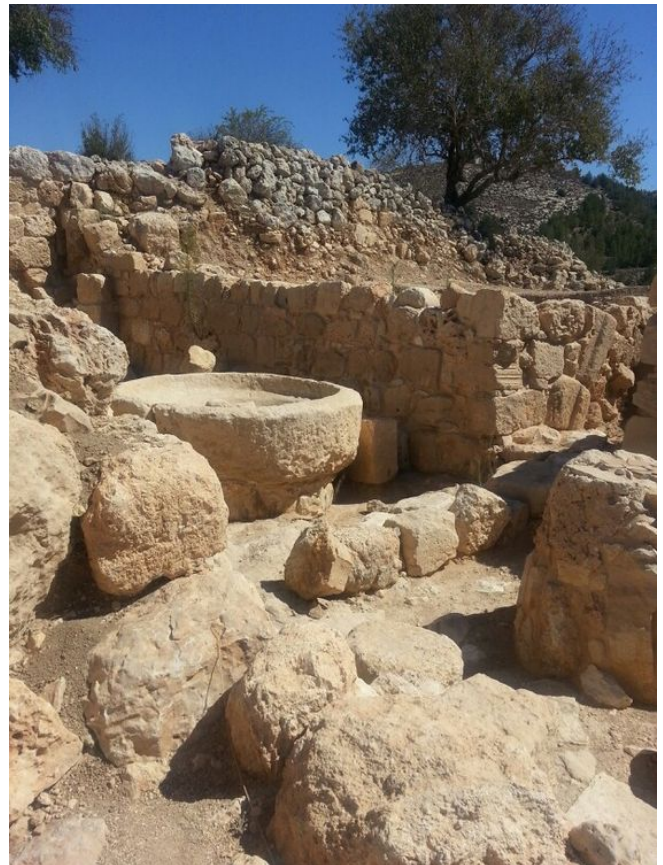
Genesis 24:11

"He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water."

Observation

1. This chapter begins with an insight into some of the daily irritations Jesus had to contend with. What do verses 1-3 say was the issue?

2. Jesus began traveling from Judea to Galilee. Israel had three distinct areas at that time. What area of land lay between Judea and Galilee? (See the maps on pages 16 & 19.)



3. Jesus and his disciples came to a town called Sychar and decided to rest here for a time. What historic landmark was located here?
4. Jesus sat to rest, and his disciples went into town to purchase food. While he was resting who happened by?
5. Jesus spoke up and made a request, what did he ask for?
6. What time of day was it when this conversation took place?

This is an important detail; carrying water is very labor-intensive work. Most people chose cool times of the day to carry water.

John 4:9

"The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?'" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

John 4:14

"but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

7. The woman was a bit surprised when Jesus spoke to her. Verse 9 explains her surprise. What was her reason?
8. Jesus told the woman if she understood who was asking her for a drink, she would have made a request of her own. What did he say she should have asked him for? _____
9. This Samaritan woman was not sure what Jesus was talking about. What two important facts did she point out to him in verse 11?
 - a.
 - b.
10. The Jews held their forefathers in high regard, but we learn that so did the Samaritan woman. She asks Jesus, "Are you greater than our father Jacob?" Scripture says Jacob had given this well to his descendants, but what did they have to continually do to be refreshed?
11. Once again Jesus goes back to speaking to her about spiritual things. In verse 14, Jesus compares the water from Jacob's well to the living water he came to give. Just as our flesh gets thirsty physically and longs to be quenched, our spirit has needs only Jesus can satisfy. What does Jesus say this living water will do?
12. Sadly, this poor woman still believes Jesus is speaking to her about water from Jacob's well. She wants some of Jesus' water. Why does she say she wants the water Jesus is offering her?
13. Jesus gently leads this woman back to a need that she has been trying to satisfy in all the wrong ways. He asks her to call her husband. What does she tell Jesus?
14. He commends her for answering honestly, and then Jesus continues telling her things he knows about her. When she hears this, what does she say about him in verse 19?
15. She still does not grasp who it is she is talking with that day. She has questions, and this seems like a good time to get some answers. Does Jesus get all caught up in the religious debates of the day?
16. Jesus shared with her the fact that God is limitless. He is not like man. God is omnipresent. It is not about being in the right place to worship. In verse 24 what did Jesus say was important?

John 1:45

"Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'"

17. While in Judea in John 3, Jesus spoke of himself as the Son of man, but he stopped short of saying he was Messiah. But to the Samaritan woman he very clearly tells her, "I am he." What is her response to this revelation? Did this remind you of Philip in John 1:45?
18. The disciples return from town with food and find Jesus talking, not just to a Samaritan but a Samaritan woman. But none of them questioned him about it; they simply offered him food. What was Jesus' response to their offer, and what was he referring to?
19. The events of the day had to bless the heart of Jesus. A woman who had a lifetime of sin had come to know him, and because of her testimony, and hearing Jesus for themselves, many of the Samaritans had come to believe he truly was the Messiah. Sadly, this is not what happened when Jesus returned to Galilee. They welcomed him, but what did Jesus say they required to believe?
20. What miracle is mentioned at the end of this chapter? Only nine verses are dedicated to the story, but if you were this official, how important would this event be?

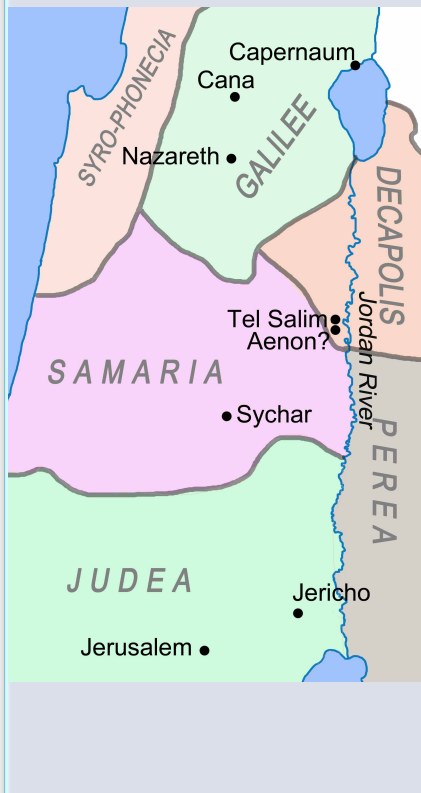
Application

1. The text tells us that Jesus had to go through Samaria. Jews managed to go around Samaria all the time, but this time Jesus chose to travel through Samaria. Did you locate these areas on the map? How might other Jews manage this journey without going through Samaria?

This was a divine appointment. This was the Father's business. Share a time you were faced with a divine appointment that dictated your schedule and your stops that day?

You may not have even known the reason behind it all, but in hindsight could you see the hand of God?

2. Jesus was suffering the effects of three very common problems of mankind. How do you handle distractions when you are tired, hungry or thirsty? Do you view them as opportunities to do the work God has called you to do?



Ephesians 2:8-9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

3. In their conversation Jesus uses the woman's words to bring up things that truly matter. What topics did he use? Are you able to take every day conversations and direct them to things of eternal importance?
4. Jesus is always using the events of our day to point us to things of eternal value. Has this happened to you lately? Think back over your week; how has the Lord used ordinary conversations and events to speak to you about spiritual things?
5. Jesus could have easily met his own needs. He could have simply used his divine power to invigorate himself. He could have spoken and the water would have come up out of the well. But what did he do? How did he leverage his needs for God's glory? Do you view your needs as a means to bring God glory?
6. Nicodemus in John 3 and the Samaritan woman in John 4 have clearly shown us some of the ways a person cannot be saved. Nicodemus was a religious man, but religion alone cannot save us. He was a Jewish man, but being born into the right family has no power to save us. The Samaritan woman was interested in spiritual things. She was looking for the coming of Messiah but did not recognize him when he was sitting right in front of her. Have you ever talked with someone who thought their religious acts were enough to save them or perhaps their family line would purchase God's favor? Read Ephesians 2:8-9, and write down how we receive eternal life.
7. Notice what it took for the Samaritan people to be saved. First, they heard the testimony of the woman who had been at the well with Jesus. Next, they heard Jesus' words for themselves. If you are a believer and follower of Jesus, and you did not do it last week, briefly share with your group how you came to Christ?
8. At the end of John 4, we read the story of a royal official who came to Jesus with a special request. This man came to Jesus and asked for him to come heal his child. What was Jesus' reply?

The man showed great faith. He took Jesus at his word and went home. Have you ever had a need so great that only Jesus could handle it? What was his answer to you? What miracle are you asking him for now, and are you trusting he will do it?

9. When the official got home and asked about the timeline of events, what was the outcome? Are you leveraging the events of the day for God's glory?