

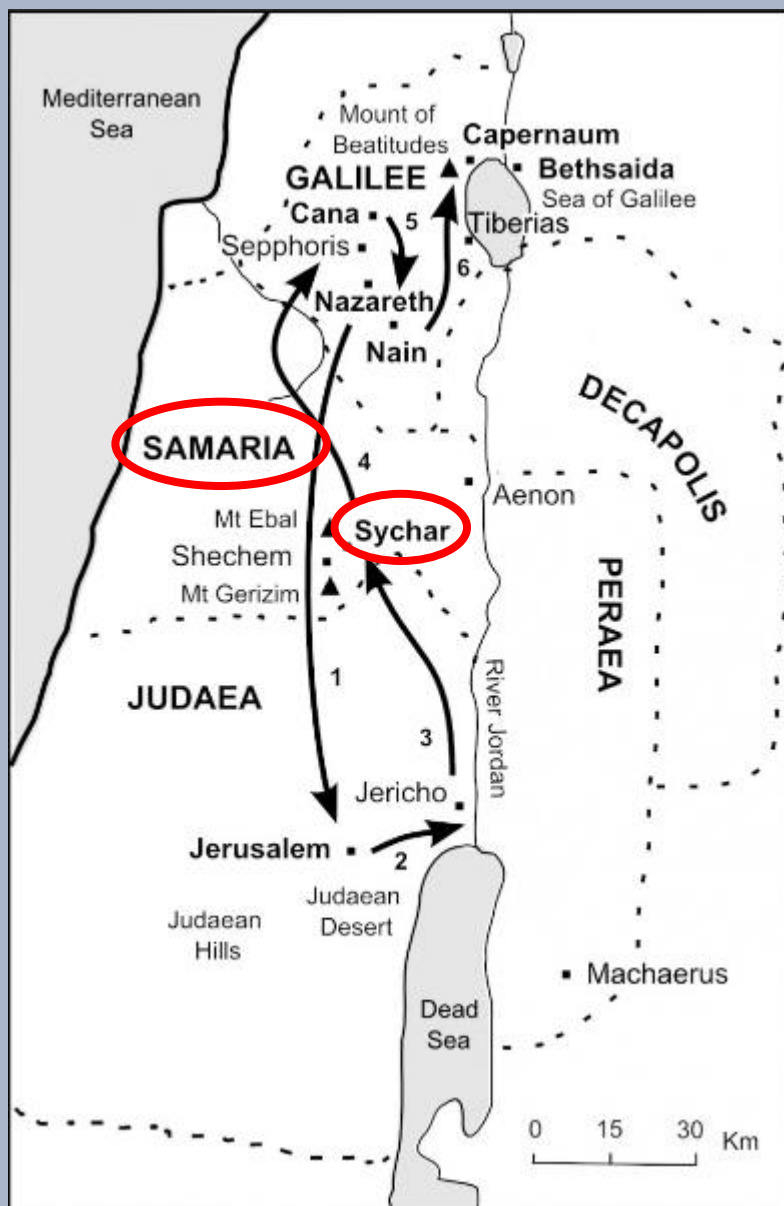
# Jesus & The Woman at the Well

## John 4



Part 6 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

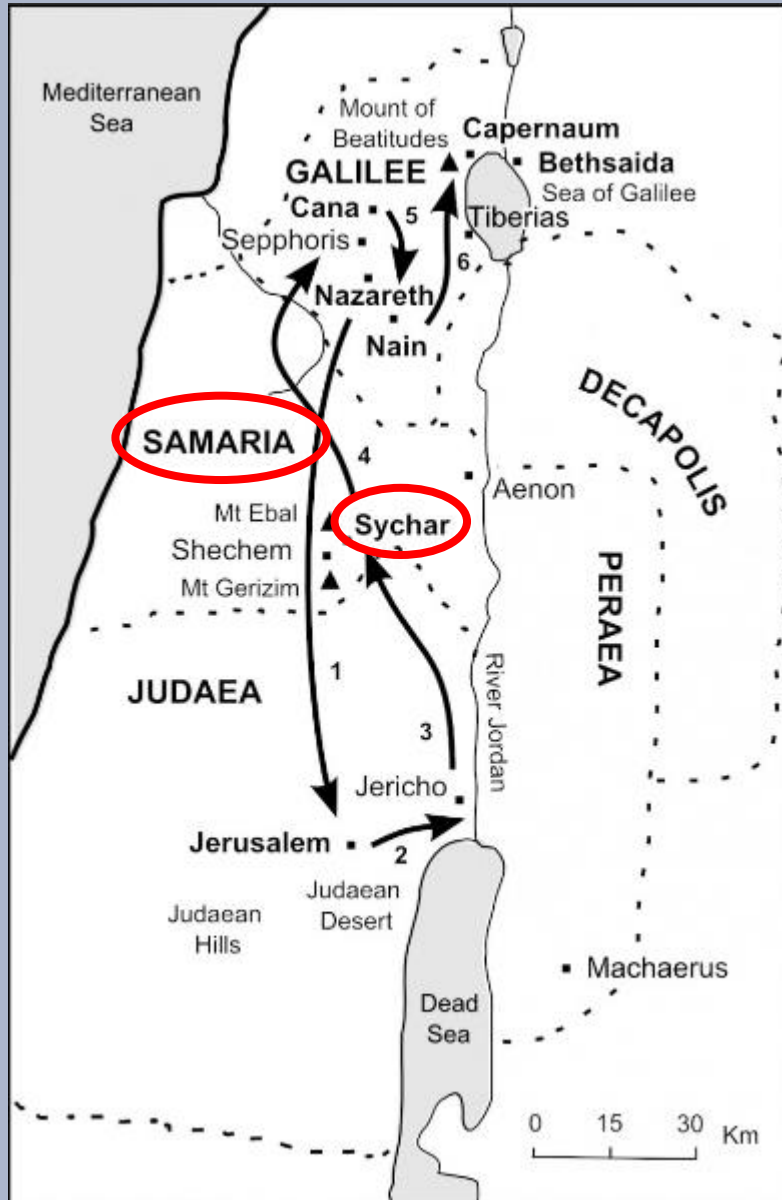




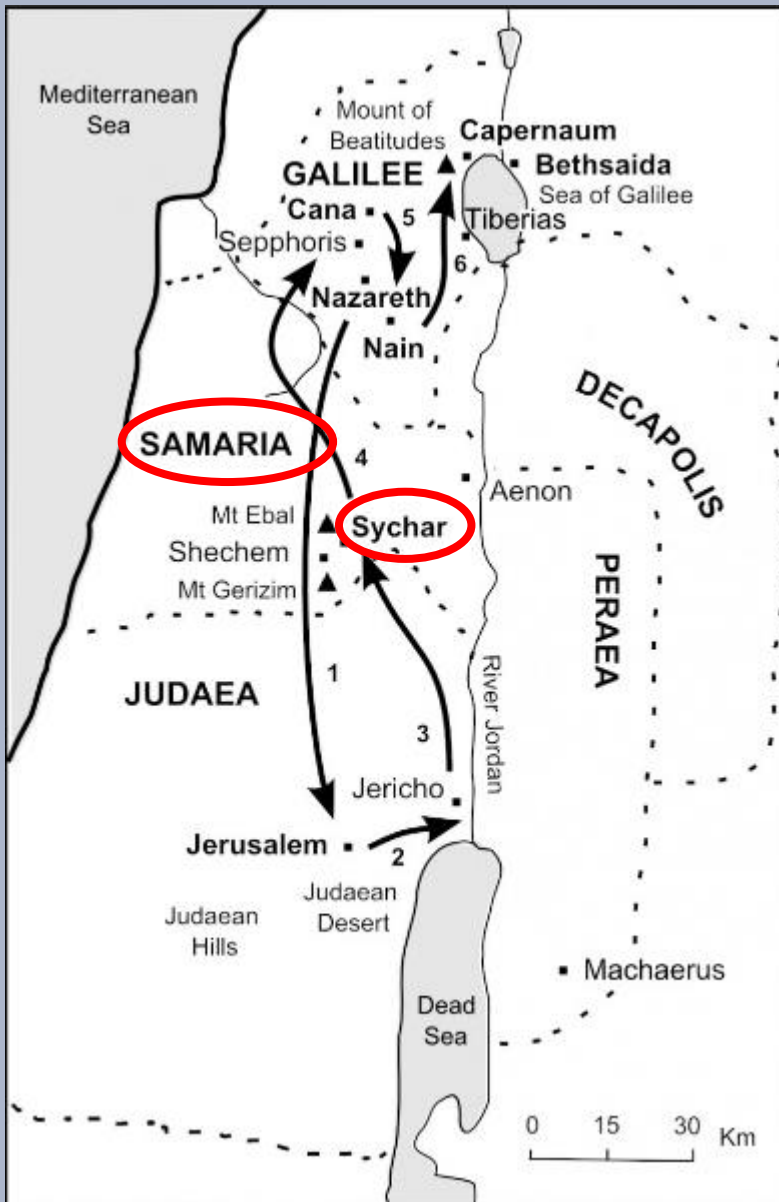
*“Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So, **he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee**. Now he had to go through **Samaria**. So, he came to a town in Samaria called **Sychar**, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **Jacob’s well** was there, and **Jesus**, tired as he was from the journey, **sat down by the well**. It was about noon”*  
” (John 4:1-6)

*“Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.” (John 4:1-2)*

- ✓ The Pharisees noticed that Jesus was developing a prominent following
- ✓ This attention wasn't something Jesus wanted because “it was not his time” (meaning his ultimate death on the cross) yet and he chose to withdraw from there and avoid any conflict
- ✓ Jesus departed this area of Judea and headed for Galilee, but he first had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman



*“So, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So, he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph”*  
(John 4:3-5)



- ✓ Jesus had been to this region before for that is where he performed his first miracle in Cana of Galilee. This was familiar territory and why John tells us “he went back once more to Galilee”
- ✓ Also, Nazareth (near Galilee) was Jesus’ hometown
- ✓ Jesus chose to go directly through Samaria because he intentionally planned to meet with a woman there in a town called “Sychar”.





“So, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he *had to go through* Samaria. So, he *came to a town in Samaria called Sychar*, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph” (John 4:3-5)

### A little history about Samaria and this plot of ground near the town of Sychar

- ✓ Jacob (also known as Israel) purchased this plot of land (referenced here in the Gospel of John) near the Old Testament city of Shechem.
- ✓ “After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel” (Genesis 33:18-20)





## A little history about Samaria and this plot of ground near the town of Sychar

- ✓ Jacob (Israel) will give this plot of land to his son Joseph and the rights to this land pass to Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons). Ironically Joseph will later be buried there.
- ✓ “And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants.” (Joshua 24:32)

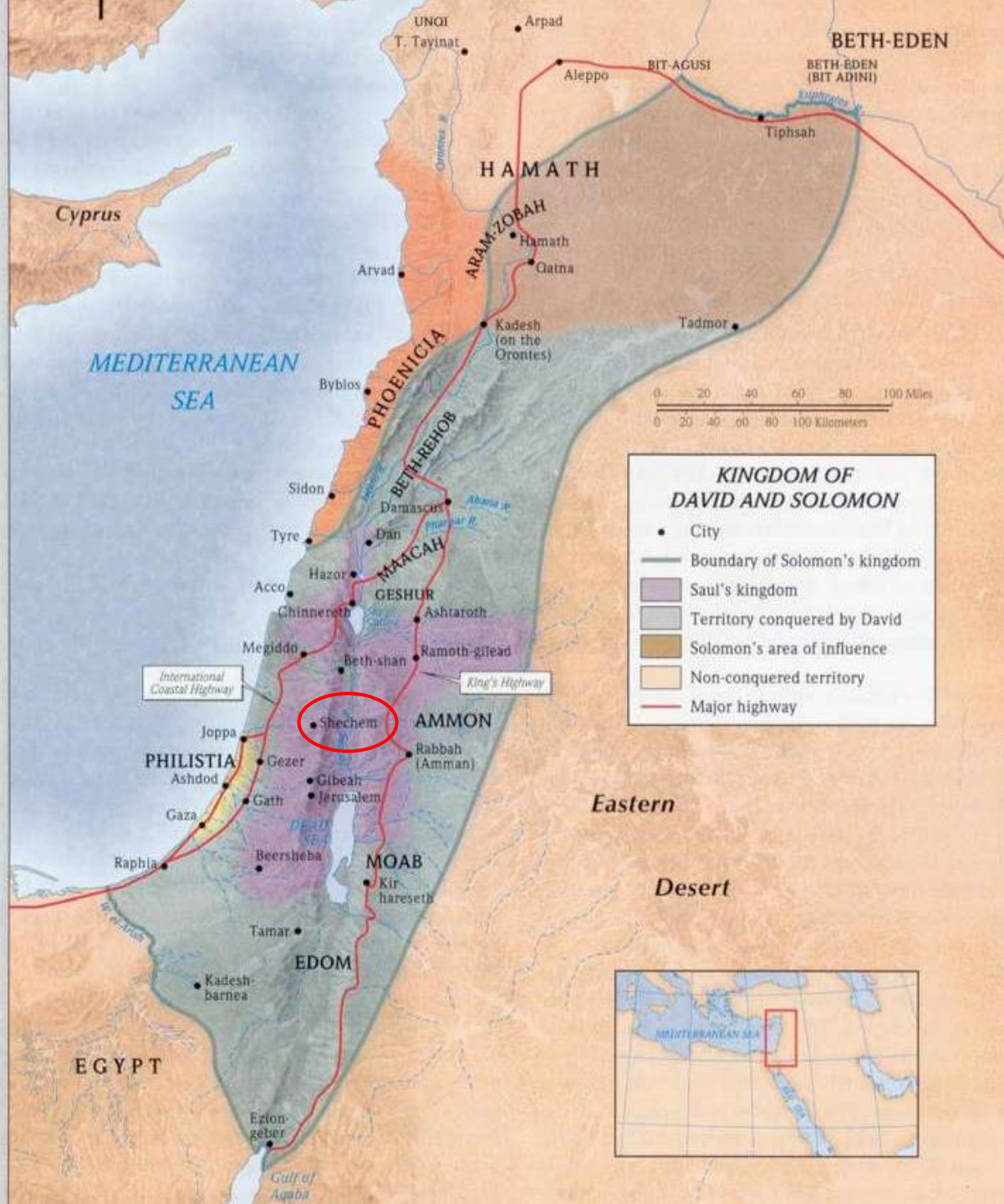




## A little history about Samaria and this plot of ground near the town of Sychar

- ✓ After the Israelites conquered the Land of Promise (Canaan, Palestine) the lands were divided among the 12 tribes of Israel.
- ✓ Eventually the Israelites will cry out for a King:
  - Saul was their first King
  - David was their second King
  - Solomon was their third King





This was the United Kingdom of Israel under the reign of David and Solomon. This was the largest territorial expansion the Israelites experienced.









“Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and **Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.** Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him. It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians and went to serve Baal and worshiped him. **So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria.** Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus, Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (I Kings 16:29-33)





✓ The Northern Kingdom of Israel was Conquered by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.

They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the Lord had commanded them not to do like them. **They forsook all the commandments of the Lord their God** and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven **and served Baal.** (II Kings 17:15-16)

*“Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a **Samaritan woman** came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 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 4:6-9)*

- ✓ It becomes evident that this was a planned visit in which Jesus knew this Samaritan woman would be at that location after he had arrived
- ✓ She identifies herself as a Samaritan woman and recognizes that Jesus is a Jew, although she doesn’t fully realize who he is (that comes later in the story)
- ✓ She knows the history of the animosity between the Samaritans and the Jews (**it ran so deep that Jews would go out of their way to not pass through Samaria**)



## Why were Jews (descendants of the Southern tribes of Judah) so bitter towards the Samaritans (descendants of the Northern tribes of Israel):

- ✓ Many continued to follow the wicked practices of Baal worship and the wicked pursuits of other foreign nations – this put them out of God’s favor
- ✓ During the time after the Babylonian exile when the Jews were rebuilding the temple and their city walls (that was destroyed by the Babylonians), the Samaritans opposed their efforts and tried to stop the construction project

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. **He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria**, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” (Nehemiah 4:1-2)

## Why did Jesus make it a point to stop at this well to see this Samaritan woman:

- ✓ Although she was a Samaritan (a race of people that were descendants of Israelites that inter-married with other non-Israelite nations) – she needed to hear the message of redemption.
- ✓ Her people (other Samaritans from the town she lived in) also needed to see Jesus and hear his words – for Jesus came to seek and save those who were lost.
- ✓ Just like Zacchaeus (a Jewish Tax Collector – also hated by the Jews) needed Jesus – so does the Samaritan woman and the other Samaritans from her town

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**” (Luke 19:8-10)



# Physical Water vs Living Water

*“Jesus answered her, **If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink**, you would have asked him and he would have given you **living water**.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this **living water**? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” (John 4:10-12)*

- ✓ The woman, not yet fully understanding who Jesus was and why he was there, remains focused on the “**physical**” water because she is relying on **human reason**; **“you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep”**
- ✓ Jesus understands the woman’s need of salvation and he remains focused on the “**spiritual**” water because he sees past the limits of man and offers **divine wisdom**.

# Living Water – The Lesson Behind the Lesson

*“Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” (John 4:10-12)*

Perhaps Jesus was thinking of the words of **Jeremiah** when he spoke about “**living water**” to the Samaritan Woman:

- ✓ “My people have committed two sins: **They have forsaken me, the spring of living water**, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13)
- ✓ “**LORD, you are the hope of Israel**; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust **because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water**” (Jeremiah 17:13)



# Living Water – The Lesson Behind the Lesson

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Perhaps Jesus was thinking of the words of **Isaiah** when he spoke about “**living water**” to the Samaritan Woman:

- ✓ *“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the Lord himself is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation**” (Isaiah 12:2-3)*
- ✓ *“**For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants”** (Isaiah 44:3)*

# Living Water – The Lesson Behind the Lesson

John himself (in the Book of Revelation) connects “living water” to eternal life:

Then the angel showed me the **river of the water of life**, as clear as crystal, **flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **No longer will there be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 22:1-5)



*“Sir, the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this **living water**? **Are you greater than our father Jacob**, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock? **Jesus answered**, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but **whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst**. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them **a spring of water welling up to eternal life**.” The woman said to him, “**Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.**” (John 4:11-15)*

- ✓ The water Jesus spoke of didn’t come from any ordinary well making him (**Jesus**) far greater than the patriarch she referenced (**Jacob**)
- ✓ The water from Jacob’s well would never fully quench her **spiritual thirst** because **Jesus was talking about the thirst in her soul**.
- ✓ Only the “**Living Water**” that Jesus offered could fully quench that thirst and to receive that water the woman needed to **recognize her sin** (which separated her from God) and **embrace Jesus as her Savior/Messiah** which she does.

*“He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. **The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.** What you have just said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” (John 4:11-15)*

- ✓ Jesus calls the woman to repentance by letting her know he is aware of her circumstances and allows her to confess her sinful actions and behavior.
- ✓ This confession was necessary, and it was the first step for the Samaritan Woman to find the forgiveness and reconciliation with God that she may or may not have known she needed prior to meeting Jesus.
- ✓ We shouldn't judge this woman too harshly as we too must repent and confess our sins to find the same forgiveness and reconciliation with God that this woman did.



- “Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 7:9-11)
- “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)
- But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, **the message concerning faith** that we proclaim: **If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved**. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”** For there is **no difference between Jew and Gentile**—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”** (Romans 10:8-13)

**“Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. (John 4:20-22)**

- ✓ The woman acknowledged and confessed her sin (John 4:17-18) and now sought the place where she could go and worship and seek atonement – “at-one-ment” with God.
- ✓ Jesus was about to break all barriers (including the one that separates Jews from Samaritans) by declaring a “new way” of worship that was actually not “new” but a worship that was genuine and from the heart as God intended.
- ✓ This “worship” no longer required a specific location, but this worship (done in the Spirit and in truth) did require something specific – a belief and trust in Jesus as the promised Messiah.



“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.” The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”  
(John 4:23-26)

- ✓ The worship that Jesus describes here is not external conformity to a set of rituals and ceremonies but an internal worship that comes from the heart.
- ✓ From the earliest days of recorded history (The Book of Genesis) God sought those who were genuine in their faith and belief but over time, the implementation of rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices took the internal “spiritual” pursuits of those who sought God and replaced them with external rules not required by God.
- ✓ God has always sought “true worshippers” who worship in the Spirit and Truth because “He Is” just that!

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- ✓ Salvation comes to those who don't have it but recognize they need it
- ✓ Salvation does require a desire for forgiveness and a genuine confession of our sin (it is sin separates us from God) and the action of repentance (turning from sin).
- ✓ Salvation comes to those who accept Jesus Christ as Messiah and the only one capable of making us right with God; *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)*



A small green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a dark, textured surface. The background is a gradient of light to dark purple and blue, with a bright light source on the left creating a lens flare effect.

## The Impact of a Changed Life

Evidenced by the Samaritan Woman and her Village

“Just then his disciples returned and were **surprised to find him talking with a woman**. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” Then, leaving her water jar, **the woman went back to the town** and said to the people, “**Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did**. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony**, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, “**We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world**.” (John 4:27-42)



“Just then his disciples returned and were **surprised to find him talking with a woman**. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” (John 4:27)

- ✓ To the disciples this action by Jesus (speaking to a woman and especially a Samaritan woman) would have been outside the societal norms of that era
- ✓ If the disciples have learned anything up to this point – they would know that the actions by Jesus were anything less than normal
- ✓ There was a valuable teaching lesson that Jesus was demonstrating by his interaction with the Samaritan woman, and it was no accident that the disciples returned at this very moment to witness the concern Jesus had for her
- ✓ The presentation of plan of salvation was first to the Jews and then his message would cross all cultural barriers and deliver the truth of salvation to the whole of mankind during his remaining time up to and including his death on the cross

“Then, leaving her water jar, **the woman went back to the town** and said to the people, “**Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did**. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.” (John 4:28-30)

- ✓ Nothing exemplifies the evidence of a changed life more than the actions of this woman as she testifies to the entire town as to her new faith.
- ✓ She may not have had all the answers which was evidenced by her statement; “is it possible that this truly is the Messiah” but her actions of boldly declaring to others in the village to “**come, see the man who told me everything I ever did**” was a good start.
- ✓ In similar fashion to Nathanael (whom Jesus also declared things he knew about him that only God would know), the woman (though maybe not as trained in the Scriptures as Nathanael) was moved by what she witnessed and felt compelled to tell others about him and how he changed her life.

“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” (John 4:31-38)

- ✓ Jesus didn’t want the disciples to focus on the wrong thing (satisfying the flesh with their physical needs) by becoming complacent, so he stresses the importance of their spiritual needs, (feeding the soul by reaching the lost) as their primary mission.
- ✓ He uses the analogy of the harvest, which for this teaching moment was to stress that others (like John the Baptist) have done the sowing (work not performed by the disciples) and their mission was to “harvest a crop for eternal life”. This was no doubt describing the Samaritan woman and those in her village.



**“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, “**We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”**”**  
(John 4:27-42)

- ✓ I suppose we could describe this as a “mini-revival” in that Samaritan village
- ✓ We should not miss the obvious distinction between “**believing**” and **genuine faith** that came from **trusting** that Jesus really is the Savior of the World”. This “believing in Jesus may have come instantaneous for some while others examined the words of Jesus (for 2 days) and concluded he is the Messiah.

***“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder”*** (James 2:19)



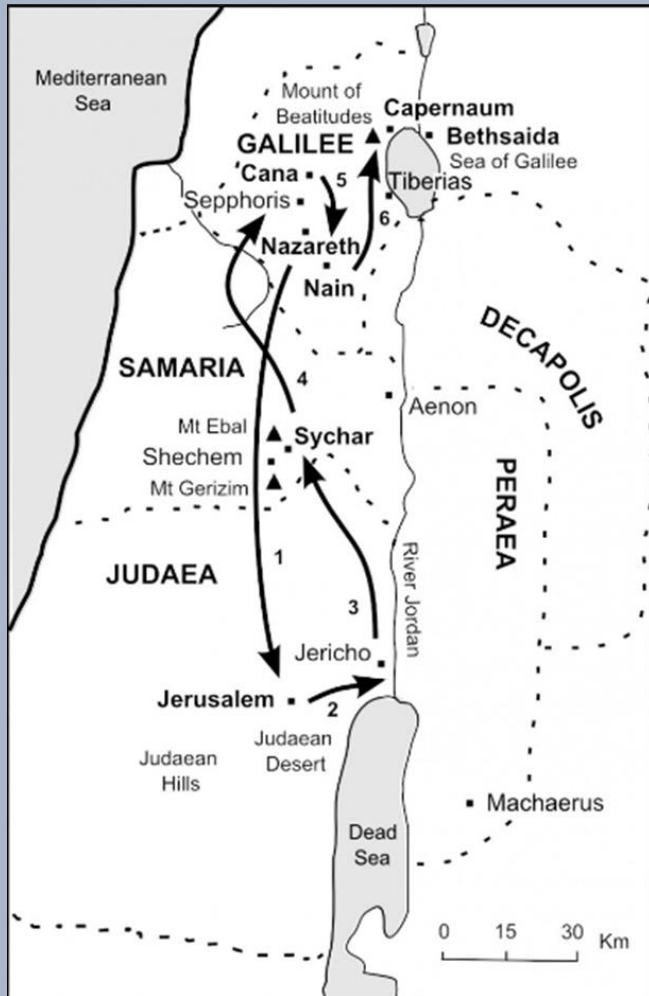
## The Impact of a Changed Life

Evidenced by the Royal Official and his family

“After the two days he left for Galilee. (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When **this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee** from Judea, **he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son**, who was close to death. “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” “**Go,**” **Jesus replied, “your son will live.”** The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.” Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” **So he and his whole household believed.** This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.” (John 4:43-54)



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- ✓ Jesus continued his journey from Judea to the region of Galilee after a brief yet divine appointment with the Woman at the Well.
- ✓ This was no accidental meeting and the spiritual influence in that Samaritan village will see its full impact throughout the Book of Acts. (Acts 1:8)
- ✓ Jesus goes to Nazareth even though he knew he wasn't truly welcomed there (Luke 4:14-30) and even rejected by many. However, some will welcome him and some (who witnessed his miracles) will believe.

Luke's account of what transpired in Nazareth

## **Jesus declares himself as the Messiah**

**“Jesus returned to Galilee** in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. **He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.** He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, **“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**  
” (Luke 4:14-21)

Luke's account of what transpired in Nazareth

**Those who didn't believe – openly rejected him as the Messiah**

“All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked. Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” **All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.** They got up, drove him out of the town, and **took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.** But **he walked right through the crowd and went on his way**” (Luke 4:22-30)



“Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When **this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee** from Judea, he went to him and **begged him to come and heal his son**, who was close to death. “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” (John 4:46-49)

- ✓ Jesus visits Cana and Capernaum in Galilee where he has another divine appointment with a Royal official.
- ✓ Luke also offers this context of the events that were about to transpire; “Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ***They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.***”
- ✓ This royal official must have either witnessed other miracles and healings by Jesus or he was made aware by others. He, “**begged him to come and heal his son**”.

**“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.” Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.” (John 4:43-54)**

- ✓ The royal official’s primary concern was for the physical well being of his son and he may not initially have been driven by a desire for the salvation of his own soul.
- ✓ This would all change once his son is healed and the nature of the healing (Jesus was not physically in the presence of his son to perform the healing) was even more miraculous for Jesus simply spoke it to be and the servant’s son was healed.
- ✓ This caused the royal official and his family to believe in Jesus