

## John 4 and the Gospel – Part 1

### March 27, 2022

The 4 gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are the 4 biographies of Jesus Christ. In these gospels we learn about Jesus, and we learn the gospel message, the message God wants us to understand about how we're to be saved, and what happens when we are saved. Last week we looked at John 3, and today we're looking at John 4.

John 4:1-18. What do we learn about Jesus, the gospel, and how to share the gospel?

1. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus didn't discriminate, He wasn't racist, He wasn't sexist. Back in those days, most Jewish people hated the Samaritans. They didn't want to have anything to do with them. They didn't even want them to walk on their land. Not only that, but most men looked down on women. Women were 2<sup>nd</sup> class, 3<sup>rd</sup> class, were put down, abused, and treated as servants, as slaves, as sex objects. Jesus saw every person as a human being, as made in God's image, as special, as ones who had a human soul, as ones equal in the sight of God. So Jesus was breaking through barriers, for He loved the Samaritans, and He loved this woman. Col. 3:9-11

2. Jesus had no fear. Jesus wasn't afraid to talk to anyone about the gospel. Many people have a fear of man, and get anxious when thinking about sharing the gospel. They're not sure what to say, or they're afraid they won't know how to respond to somebody, or they are afraid they may be verbally attacked. But God has not given us a spirit of fear but of confidence, boldness, and courage.  
- The 1<sup>st</sup> key to being fearless is knowing God, and that He's loving, strong, wise, etc.  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> key is clearly knowing the truths of the gospel, the main points of the gospel.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> key is trusting and being filled with the Spirit, for the Spirit gives courage. Acts 4:31

3. Jesus was personal with people. There are many examples in the gospels of how Jesus was in a one-on-one situation with a person. We saw this in John 3 when Jesus was with Nicodemus - it was just Jesus talking to Nicodemus. When you share the gospel, you're often talking to just one other person. I am not saying you can't talk to groups of people, but you need to learn to focus on just one person, and who he is, on his specific needs, and how to answer any questions he has.

And you want that person to know that you genuinely love him and care for him. You're to love that person in a godly way. You are to be kind and patient and gentle with that person, knowing they have needs and problems only God can take care of. You're to be genuinely interested in that person, and to show your interest, you need to communicate and interact with them, to ask them good questions, to listen, to draw them out, to give good answers. And we see that with Jesus in John 4. Luke 2:46

4. Jesus shared the gospel even though He didn't feel like it. Jesus could have thought -- *"Hey, I'm tired, I am not up to sharing the gospel,"* and that would've been a good reason. But Jesus loved this woman, and even though He was tired and didn't feel like sharing the gospel, He did, for He was motivated to talk to her, and by the Spirit of God, He did, As people we're often tired, or we're busy doing something, and we meet a stranger, and it's not a convenient time. But God wants us to be flexible, to see the importance of sharing the gospel with that one person, and be willing to adjust, to change our schedule. - 2 Tim. 4:1-2. We need to be ready to share the gospel, whether it's in season or out of season, whether it seems to be the right time, the right place, the right person, or not.

5. Jesus made the most of the opportunity. Jesus was traveling, and He needed a break. While He was sitting there resting, a woman comes up. You see what Jesus does - He asks her to give him a drink of water. So He uses this particular situation to engage her, to get her in a conversation, one that led Him to sharing the truth about Himself and the gospel. The lesson for us is that we need to be looking for opportunities to share the gospel, and then make the most of the opportunities when they come our way.

When we think about making the most of opportunities, there are three key points.

1. We need to be thinking about others - we can be overly focused on ourselves, but we need to think about the people around us, we need to notice people, and think about how they're doing, and what they're going through, and if they're saved or not.  
2. The gospel needs to be on our mind; we need to remind ourselves that the gospel is what people need to hear more than anything else, and that it's our duty to share the gospel with others, and therefore, we should look for opportunities. Col. 4:2-6, Eph. 5:15-17

3. It means you use everyday conversations to lead to a discussion about the gospel. It could be the weather, world events, a sickness, a death, or some calamity or disaster. And you're thinking about how a particular subject relates to the gospel, and can lead to a discussion about the gospel. Luke 13:1-5  
- And what's important in sharing the gospel is loving the person, is being kind, is being compassionate. Love and truth need to go together. Eph. 4:15

6. Salvation is a gift of God. Jesus is talking about living water and living water symbolizes spiritual life, and spiritual life is a gift from God, what He wants to give us. You see, spiritual life is free - it's what God gives to people. He's not forced to give it to us. He's not giving us this life because we're making Him give it to us. He loves us and wants to give us eternal life, this living water, this spiritual life. John 3:16  
- That spiritual life is a gift from God means it doesn't cost us anything, that we can't work for it, we can't earn it, we don't deserve it, we can't do anything to get it, it's not a matter of good works, and it's not a matter of what somebody else can do. 2 Macc. 12

The idea that our good works can cover, can atone for all our sins, our millions of sins against God is pure foolishness, is totally false, is one of the greatest errors. The idea that our good works can satisfy God's infinite demands for justice is just ridiculous.  
- But most people and most religions believe that the way to get to God, the way to get to heaven, is a matter of good works - but this is just not true, it's wrong. Being right with God, and receiving spiritual life, receiving eternal life is a gift from God. Rom. 6:23

Rom. 3:23-25. God gives us the gift of life and it's free for us, but it costs Him greatly, the life of His own Son. The only way to be given spiritual life is for Christ to satisfy God's demands for justice, and this happened when Christ died and paid the penalty for people's sins, and God, through the Holy Spirit, applies Christ's work on the cross to their lives. It's not a matter of our work but Christ's work for us. And this payment by Christ for our sins is God's gift to us, a work of God's grace on our behalf. Eph. 2:1-9, 2 Cor. 9:15

7. The spiritual gift of God is living water. What does this mean?

a. It says living water, and you need living water to spiritually live. You need physical water to physical live, and it's the one thing you need more than anything else, even more than food. 60% of your body is made up of water. 73% of your brain and 83% of your lungs is water. So too you need living water to live. Nothing but living water can meet your spiritual needs. This word "*living*" is a big word, and when God gives you living water then you are truly living, and you have love, joy, peace, purpose, contentment, etc.  
- And you get this living water by the Holy Spirit - John 7:37-39.

b. We get thirsty for physical water, and so too people get thirsty for living water, for that which can truly satisfy them. People are thirsty for love, joy, peace, for real meaning in life. But people are deceived and thirst for fleshly and worldly things, thinking these will satisfy them, will meet their spiritual needs, but they're wrong. Isaiah 55:1-2, Psalm 107:9  
- People go after food, drugs, and sex, thinking these will satisfy them, but they don't. They think that having money, clothes, cars, smart phones, or good looks will satisfy them, but they won't. They think that music, movies, TV shows, and video games will satisfy them, but they won't. All these things leave people empty, unsatisfied, and craving for more.  
- Heb. 11:25. Moses called this the passing pleasures of sin. Lusting after fleshly and worldly things may result in temporary satisfaction and pleasure, but it's fleeting and empty. Jer. 2:13

1 John 2:15-17. When people love the things of the world, and the things of the flesh, then they're loving idols, but they aren't loving God, and therefore, they aren't receiving living water from Him, aren't getting that which can truly satisfy. Gen. 3:6 – Adam and Eve  
Jesus wanted this woman to see that she needed living water that only He could give her. And when we talk to people about the gospel, we want to help them see that they need this living water, that only this can truly satisfy them, and it comes from God, from Jesus. That is, only God can really and truly satisfy the needs of their soul, their spirit. Pascal.

c. Vss. 13-14. Jesus talks of this living water being a well of water springing up to eternal life. - People go after the things of the world, and they thirst again, meaning they're never truly satisfied, for the things of world and the flesh leave them empty, and they're still thirsty. But living water is like a well of water. You know what a well of water is - the water comes from an underground water source that never runs out - the water keeps coming day after day. And the living water you get from God never runs out – it comes from God who is eternal, and He is a continual and eternal source of this living water, this love, joy, peace, purpose, etc. We've talked about how being saved results in having eternal life (John 3:16). Here we see that having living water is what it means to have eternal life. Eternal life is having this continual and eternal source of living water that comes from God, and that never runs out.

8. Sin keeps us from having living water, from having eternal life. And so this woman wants this water, but what is Jesus telling her, what does she need to know? Jesus is telling her that she's a sinner, and His goal was to convict her of her sin. And so Jesus tells her about one of her sins, and this is a big sin, an obvious sin. This woman was married 5 times and was now living with this other man. She was sinful, unrighteous, and immoral. She thought life was having a relationship with a man, that she'd be satisfied by that. But obviously she wasn't satisfied, for she had 5 husbands, and she kept divorcing them, or they kept divorcing her.

Jesus wanted her to know that her problem was sin, that her sin kept her from having eternal life. Jesus wanted her to know that she needed to first repent of her sin, to turn from her sin, and then believe in Him, and believe that He was the only One who could pay for her sin so she could be forgiven of her sins and receive eternal life. And so there are 2 aspects of our salvation. The first is that Jesus takes away our sin, and forgives us our sins. The second is that Jesus gives us living water, this abundant life. We should always think of salvation this way: it's what Jesus takes away and what Jesus gives us. And what's emphasized in the book of John is that Jesus gives us eternal life.

John 4 is about Jesus being living water. John 6 says Jesus is the bread of life. John 8 says Jesus is the light of the world. John 10 says Jesus is our shepherd. John 11 says Jesus is the Resurrection, which means we'll be glorified. John 14 says Jesus is the way, the truth and life. All this is speaking of what Jesus gives us, and it all relates to having eternal life. John 5:24 - This is so encouraging; we must think of the gospel this way, as that which Jesus takes away, and as that which He gives us. Debt and Credit. When you share the gospel, help people see that God wants to take away their sin, and wants to give them eternal life, this living water. - John 7:37, John 10:10, 1 John 5:11-13