

## The Relentless Pursuit of Jesus

John 4:1-26 <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **"Give me a drink."** <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."** <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, and come here."** <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, **"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."** <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."** <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am he."**

### ❖ Intro

- **A beautiful picture of the Relentless Pursuit of God for His people...**
- **You Must See...**
  - This is something you can read and hear and understand
  - How Jesus draws the Sinner (you and me) to Him
- **You Must See this in your Own Spiritual Walk**
  - How Jesus Comes to You...
  - And HE speaks to You
    - Through His Word
    - Or someone preaching His Word
  - And He Reveals to you where you have went astray
  - **And often times you dismiss it...**
    - And you won't understand what He is saying because
    - You are listening with your natural mind
    - And not Your Spirit
    - But He continues to pursue You...
- **Then, Jesus Reveals Himself to you as Your Lord and Savior**
  - And you must follow Him...
- **Open up your eyes so that you may see Him**

- And your need for Him....
- And Run to Him today
- **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...**
- **Unbeliever.... Today...**
  - See that God is Relentlessly Seeking You...
  - Just the way you are....
- **Believer.... Today**
  - Remember the Jesus has Relentlessly Pursued You...
  - And Made you His Own...
  - And Rejoice in that...
  - And live your life not for yourself, but for Him

## ❖ Background

- **to pass through Samaria**
  - Place located b/w Jerusalem and galilee...
    - So just to the North of Jerusalem...
  - The Samaritans.... Were kind of stuck in the middle of the Jews...
    - Jews to the North and Jews to the South
- **came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,**
  - **near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.**
    - Joseph, who had been in Egypt... told His people to take His bones to this place
  - **Jacob's well was there**
    - Jacob built wells here... in Gen.
  - Isaac and Jacob had built alters for worship here
    - And The Jewish people would Worship there early in their history...
- **“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?”**
  - Men did not hardly speak to women in this culture...
  - For fear of being thought of as flirting...
  - Or lust, or Adultery...
    - Some pharisees... Would place their head down any time they passed a woman...
  - Many Men would not even speak to their mothers, wives or daughters in public...
- **(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)**
  - **They hated each other...**
- **Why did they Hate Each other So much**
  - They Had Ethnic (Racial), Religious and Cultural Issues with the Samaritans...
- **The Assyrians came to Sychar in about 720 bc...**
  - And conquered them... and many of them were taken back to Assyria
  - But some were left there in this area...
  - Then the Assyrians sent people of other religions and cultures into this area
  - And they were to come in and take over deported peoples homes and crops...
- **In 2 Kings 17....**
  - These people had the choice to be part of the new religion...
  - Or stay faithful to their God... but...
  - They didn't, they intermarried...
  - And followed the new false gods...
  - Even got to the point where they would even offer child sacrifices...
- **The Samaritans**
  - Tried to have some of old Faith, and keep new as well...

- 2 Kings 17:40-41 <sup>40</sup> However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner. <sup>41</sup> So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.
- **When the Exiles begin to come back to Israel... they go to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple**
  - We see this in Ezra and Nehemiah....
  - Those Samaritans... went to help rebuild the temple...
  - But the Jewish people would not allow them to help...
  - Because of their following of false gods.... They were looked at as defiled...
  - So the Jews said... yall have no part with us...
- **A Rebellious Jew marries a Samaritan woman...**
  - And He goes and builds a temple on Mt Gerazim
  - They say... we don’t need Jerusalem... we can worship here...
- **Eventually the Jews (about 120 years before Jesus comes)**
  - Get so tired of this they march in and destroy the temple that was built
  - Had a little war with the Samaritans....
- **So they Hated each other and despised each other....**
  - They stayed away from each other...
  - Because they hated each other enough to kill...
- **Jews would Walk Around Samaria**
  - It would often add about 3 days to their journey...
  - But they hated them...
  - And it was dangerous to walk through Samaria...
  - The Samaritans could possible kill a Jew... and the Jew might kill a Samaritan..
- **EXAMPLE:**
  - Black White Relations in the South

## ❖ Who is this Woman

- **Comes to Draw Water at the 6<sup>th</sup> hour of the day.... About Noon...**
  - The common time to come is in the morning or in the evening
  - Because when the sun came up it got hot.... Real hot
  - And you didn’t want to be carrying a bucket to the well and back at this time of day
- **The Well was like a common day beauty Salon...**
  - Time for the women of the town to ask about each other
  - How you doing...
  - A time of fellowship a bit...
- **This Woman came when no one else was coming**
  - Why?
- **This Woman was kind of an outcast (Sinful Woman)**
  - And She knew it...
  - She didn’t like people staring at her...
  - She knew she was not like many of the other women...
- **Jesus spoke to her about her sin...**
  - **“You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”**
  - Married 5 times....
  - And living with her boyfried...
  - Wow...
  - Even by today’s standards that **is a lot...**
  - People would be like... Really... you have been married 5 times...

- **Marriage is Sacred – It was Viewed like that then, and Even so Today...**
  - **God’s desire, and His will is for One man to be Married to One woman...**
    - The only things that are acceptable to God
    - Is death or adultery...
    - If the spouse dies, then the other is free to remarry
    - Also, if one spouse commits adultery, the other is free to divorce
  - **Divorce was never God’s intention**
    - Jesus said that Moses allowed it because of the hardness of peoples hearts...
  - **This Woman.... 5 times married, and living with a guy...**
    - Either 5 husbands had died.... Or... there was some shady stuff going on...
    - And men could just put a woman out at any time
  - **So, most likely this woman was either...**
    - A very loose woman...
    - Or a woman that had been put out a lot
    - And rejected so often...

<sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria.

#### ❖ **Jesus Had to Go to Samaria**

- **He Had to:**
  - He could have walked around it...
  - But here it says He had to..
- **He had a divine Appointment...**
  - He had to go and speak with this lady...
  - He was seeking her

#### ❖ **Jesus Offers Her Living Water**

- **Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”**
- **Living Water...**
  - Obviously... we See Jesus is offering a different kind of water then the water in the well...
  - A living water... Water that is alive...

#### ❖ **She doesn’t Get it**

- **<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”**
- **You Have Nothing to Draw Water With... and the Well is deep**
  - She is looking on the external
  - **She understands He is speaking of a different Kind of Water...**
    - Yet... Still external...
- **She Asks: Are You Greater than Our Father Jacob...**
  - Jesus is about to answer with an emphatic YES....
  - He greater because His water is greater...
  - It doesn’t just quench the physical body...

- It quenches our Soul's thirst...

#### ❖ Jesus Explains What He Means by Living Water

- <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

##### ➤ Water for your body

- Is good, but you will be thirsty again...

##### ➤ The Water I give Him....

- He switches water types....
- Not talking about H<sub>2</sub>O anymore...

##### ➤ Never be thirsty again.....

- Jesus knows the condition of the Soul....
- He knows We are thirsty and hungry for something....
- We want it everyday... we are relentlessly pursuing things to fill us up...
- We just do not realize they do not do it...
- **We get:**
  - A new car... 1 drink of water...
  - A new computer... another drink of water...
  - We are thirsty again... we find a spouse
  - Still thirsty... we have kids...
  - Still thirsty.... We get a higher paying job.... Still thirsty...
  - We look for another person to make us feel good...
  - STILL Thirsty...
  - We look to Religion... and we work real hard, and it makes us feel good...
  - But still thirsty.... And we go on and on and on

##### ➤ Spring of Water Welling up to eternal life...

- God Will place A Source of Soul Refreshment Into Your Soul
- And you will have no need to go anywhere when you are thirsty...
- The Well will be inside of You...
- When Jesus invades Your Life
  - And His Spirit lives within You... You will have a well of Eternal life giving water...
- And All you have to do is drink it...

#### ❖ She Still Doesn't Get it

- <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

##### ➤ She is tired of walking this lonely walk

##### ➤ In the heat of the day... She wants to get this water...

- Still seeing physically....
- Asking that she now won't have to walk back and forth to get water...
- Wanting things easy for her in life... And external help...

#### ❖ Jesus Reveals Her Sin (Shows Himself to be a prophet)

- <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

- **He Opens up her heart to reveal who she really is...**
  - And we spoke of this before...
- **This woman kind of skirts around what Jesus tells her to do...**
  - She gives a partially true answer...
  - Jesus says... you are right... You do not have a husband...
  - But...
- **I see right through you mamm**
  - I see you are an adulterous and idolatrous woman...
  - You have been with many men, and you serve other gods...

❖ **She Still doesn't Get what He is Saying**

- <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”
- **It Does take her mind to God... She begins now to think about God...**
  - But She still isn't getting it
- **She asks about where they are to Worship**
  - When we looked at the background you see they had built a place of worship there...

❖ **Jesus Reveals to her WHO she is to worship and How (It doesn't matter where)**

- <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- **You Worship what You do not know...**
  - Your Worship is all wrong...
    - You do not even Know God... You do not know who you worship...
  - Apply that today... There are thousands of people that are worshipping the wrong thing...
    - You say that... and you will be labeled an extremist know it all...
    - Is that what Jesus was?
- **Salvation is From the Jews...**
  - Not FOR the Jews, rather From...
  - God used the Israelites to bring His Son into the world...
  - He could have used anyone He wanted, but He chose the people of Israel...
- **Worship God in Spirit and Truth**
  - **Spirit**
    - You take your worship with you every where you go...
    - He places His Spirit within You... (If you are born again)
    - And You can worship God at the foot of your bed
    - In Your Car... On your couch, at Work, at the Gym, and here today at this Church...
  - **Truth**
    - Jesus said He is the Truth
    - We must know Him truly as He is...
    - And it is His word (the Bible) that reveals this truth...
    - Don't listen to lies...
    - **The Bible teaches that Jesus is:**

- ◆ God, the Son of God, eternal in His existence, without sin, all powerful, humble servant, who came to die
- ◆ Was tortured.... Had the sins of man placed upon Him...
- ◆ And He was killed because He came to deliver us from death
- ◆ Jesus took God's wrath for You... so You do not have to take it...
- **He died... and the Bible says, through hundreds of eye witnesses**
  - ◆ That He rose from the grave...
  - ◆ By His own power and strength...
- And We are called to come to a knowledge of this truth...
- **Don't You think it is Worth Your Time to:**
  - Study and find the truth...
- **He is seeking such people to Worship him...**
  - God is seeking Us...
  - Oh how glorious that statement is...
  - God is Seeking Us

#### ❖ She Still Doesn't Get it

- <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."
- **She doesn't realize Who He is...**
  - He just answered every question she had... And Showed Her, her true self...
  - Yet the hardness of her heart did not allow her to see who He was...

#### ❖ Jesus Reveals to her who He Is

- <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."
- **I AM HE**
  - What an Awesome statement
  - The only person in the gospel of John... that He directly admits to who He is...
    - Is an Adulterous Samaritan Woman...
- **A Woman Who had:**
  - Broken His commands about marriage...
  - Broken His commands about Sexual purity I assume
  - Followed false gods
- **Jesus Loves her.... And takes her back**
- **And then... She gets it... it clicks... She understands...**
  - **And then we see.... Get this.... She follows Him... She tells others about Him**

#### ❖ Invitation

- **Jesus is Pursuing you today...**
  - **YOU ARE THIS WOMAN....**
  - Please see that, and embrace the truth of it...
- He has revealed to You through His Spirit your rebellion against Him...
- He has also shown you that He is who He says He is...
- **All you have to do is embrace Christ today...**
  - Embrace Him by Repenting of your sins... confessing them to Him today...
  - And by Faith placing your Trust in Him...
    - Your trust in Him to Save you from Hell
    - To give You eternal life in heaven