

## **John 4:1-26 :: One Pursuit My Shame (here) to My Savior (there)**

### **Introduction**

- John is consistently trying to move us from “here to there”. Here you are spiritually (wherever that is) and he wants to get you there (further along/across the line of faith).
- It’s no accident that the author puts a conversation with Nicodemus in chapter 3 and a conversation with this woman in chapter 4 - so closely together. Even though these 2 people couldn’t be any more different – this gospel truth remains and something that John wants us to get: left to themselves (regardless of how much they have accomplished OR regardless of how much they’ve sinned) – they are EQUALLY no closer to God and BOTH needed Jesus.

3 major movements in how Jesus helps this women move from here (her shame) to there (her Savior).

### **1) Jesus goes to her starting point.**

- Why did He have to pass through Samaria in verse 4? He didn’t have to. There were at least 2 other ways to get up to Galilee.
- Jesus is not a victim of human impulse. The circumstances don’t control Him, but He controls the circumstances. This is important because - Jesus is not responding to a situation, but He is acting purposefully.
- Jesus goes to where she is at. He is sensitive to her and to her context.
- In His pursuit of her, He is willing to pay that price. He will not let gender, religion, class, bigotry, hate, culturally acceptable norms – to get in the way of sharing the gospel.

### **2) Jesus gave her both the good and tough news of the Gospel.**

- Jesus is saying (v. 13-14) - I am more superior than Jacob. My gift to you is more superior. My water to you is more superior. My well is more superior. The water that I am offering you will permanently satisfy. And it will do more than just satisfy you, it will spring up out of you, it will transform you from the inside out.
- This is good news - not only that His gift to her is superior, but it’s also given freely. In verse 10, Jesus says that this is a gift from God. It’s a sweet reminder, that salvation is a gift you receive and not a wage you earn.
- The most loving thing Jesus can do right now is confront her thirst for companionship. This is the tough news of sharing the Gospel – sin has to be addressed. We are always desperately searching for the things that only God can give us, while at the same time we are running away from Him.
- Jesus had to confront her sin, because He wanted her to understand the nature of this gift. He wants her to understand – that this is not water you drink with

your mouth; it's a water that you drink with your heart. Your heart is what aches, and your heart is what He wants to satisfy.

### 3) Jesus gave her...Himself.

- In verse 20, this women at the well tries to change the subject to the proper place of worship. But if you notice in the rest of the verses, Jesus doesn't bring the conversation back to a mountain of worship, to the living water, to an experience. BUT He brings her back to HIM. Jesus in essence answers her by saying it doesn't matter where you worship because the "hour is coming" (v. 21 and 23).
- Every time in the Gospel of John, this "hour" always points back to the hour of His death. Why does He allow Himself to grow thirsty on the cross? He does this, so that He could say to every single one of us – I don't care what you've done or who you are – this living water is made possible for you...because I experienced the ultimate thirst.



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