**The Gospel of John:**

**Jesus—Living Water, p. 2**

*John 4:1-24*

**John 4:16-24**—*He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.”****17****The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’;****18****for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”****19****The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.****20****Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”****21****Jesus \*said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.****22****You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.****23****But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.****24****God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”****25****The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”****26****Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”*

**Context**

Although a very familiar and easily understood story in the life of the church, the “woman at the well” narrative in not only instructive on how to evangelize an unbeliever who isn’t looking for salvation, but more importantly instructive on Jesus’ self-revelation of who He is as the Messiah (**v 26**). Although John (the Apostle) gave His testimony as well as John the Baptist and Jesus’ disciples testimony that Jesus is the Christ, here you have Jesus Himself identifying Himself to an “unlikely” candidate. Both points are very meaningful when we see them in their original context.

**Observations on how Jesus evangelizes an unbeliever**

1. **Setting the scene, vv 1-6**
2. **The exchange, vv 7-19**
3. Jesus enters her world, **v 7**
4. Jesus offers her unsolicited mercy, **v 10**
   1. living water
   2. salvation—mercy, grace, pardon, forgiveness, justification, in a never ending supply
5. Jesus offers her the gospel—HIMSELF!
6. Jesus confronts her sin, **vv 16-19**

**Isaiah 55:6-7**—*Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.* ***7****Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

**Acts 26:19-20**—“*So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,****20****but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.*

**I Thessalonians 1:9**—*For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God*

1. Although she tells Jesus the truth, it is only a half truth. “Living together” is identified here as sin and like any sin it must be repented and forsaken.
2. The bible is clear that marriage is a formal, legal, public covenant between a man and a woman (**Matthew 19:5-6**).

Jesus did not come to grant sinners perfection in the next life while leaving them to continue in sin in this one (c.f. **Jeremiah 7:9-10; Romans 3:5-8; 6:1-2**).[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Jesus identifies Himself as The Christ, **vv 20-26**
   1. She asks about worship
      1. Samaritans worshiped on Mt Gerizim (**Deuteronomy 11:29**)
      2. Jews worship in Jerusalem (**2 Chronicles 6:6; Psalms 48:1-2; 78:68-69; 132:13**)
   2. Jesus responds with prophetic new covenant truth, **v 23**
      1. True worship is not a place; it is about loving and honoring God through obedience from the heart.
      2. There will be an removal of both “places of worship”
      3. At the death of Christ, the veil separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy place was ripped from Top to Bottom. That was symbolic of an end to the entire OT system of external, ceremonial, symbolic worship. There are no more temples or ceremonies or sacrifices.

**1 Peter 2:9**—*But you are a chosen race, A Royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

* 1. We worship the Father, **v 23**

**John 4:23**—*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.*

* + 1. God is Spirit
    2. We must worship in spirit and truth
  1. Jesus is the I AM, **v 26**
     1. **John 8:58**—Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”
     2. Jesus uses I AM 23 times; 7 times He adds metaphors with it (**6:35, 41, 48, 51; 8:12,: 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25, 14:6; 15:1, 5**)

**Summary:** **Jesus identifies 3 fixed truths about salvation**

1. Salvation comes only to those who recognize their desperate need for spiritual life they do not have.
2. Salvation comes only to those who confess and repent of their sin and desire forgiveness.
3. Salvation comes only to those who embrace Jesus Christ as their Messiah and sin bearer.

**John 14:6**—*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

**Acts 4:12**—*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*

1. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John 1-11, p. 147 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)