

Series: Life to the Full; *Sermon:* **Living Water**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **November 12, 2017**

Bible text explored: **John 4:1–45**

¹Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The 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.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and

reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

⁴³After the two days he departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴(For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) ⁴⁵So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Was the reason Jesus shifted his ministry from Judea to Galilee (vv. 1-4) due to failure, or to the Pharisaic opposition his success aroused?

(See also *John 7:1*.)

Why was it that Jesus “had” to go through Samaria? Was the necessity based on avoiding a long detour, or on revealing good news receptivity among a people the Jews detested?

Name more recent examples of what Pastor Moody called strange, unexpected harvests of ardent disciples among peoples thought to be at society’s margins.

2. Why (vv. 7-15, plus 27) would Jesus’ disciples be shocked to find him talking with a Samaritan woman?

What makes the vulnerability of asking for help effective in lowering barriers?

Jesus used the image of gushing water to describe the “gift of God.” Why would that be compelling for villagers dependent on a single deep well?

3. Why (vv. 16-18) is gently uncovering the reality of sin an essential aspect of gospel witness?

4. Pastor Moody described the woman as “punting” to historic theological divisions between the two peoples (in vv. 19-22). How are differences in where and how people worship still used to create divisions?

5. What (vv. 23-26) could remove the division between Jews and Samaritans?

When does true worship occur?

How did Jesus reveal himself to be the Truth? (See also *John 14:6 & 15:26*.)

6. Why (vv. 27-30) do those recently won to Christ often make the most effective evangelizers?

7. What (vv. 31-38) did Jesus imply was the nourishment that kept him going?

What was happening that Jesus urged his disciples to wake up and recognize?

Why does maximum satisfaction come from engaging in some form of harvest work?

8. Trace (vv. 39-42) how this encounter changed perceptions of Jesus both for the woman (vv. 9, 19, and 29) and for Sychar’s other residents.