



John 4 1-14

New International Version

⁴ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

"Christians are made, not born." Tertullian



Sermon Notes

THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Socratic Method: asks probing questions in an effort to expose the underlying fear, bigotry and insecurities which turn God's people into slaves

"At the end of the day, the questions we ask of ourselves determine the type of people that we will become."

What questions are **YOU** avoiding?

The starting point of every discovery begins with a question.

Jesus confronts our **FEAR**

Status and Standing are common forms of isolation

By connecting us to **GOD'S PROMISES**

"The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." V14

To live with renewed **CONFIDENCE** and **COURAGE**

Peace on the outside comes from knowing God on the inside.

In a land where what is sacred is honored, not ignored, where pain is comforted, not hidden, gratitude is liberating, not limiting, there can be no question as to God's Presence among them.

LIVING WORD

An Amazing Contrast

"Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross" (Phil. 2:6-8)

Can you imagine Queen Elizabeth II giving up her crown to live as a pauper? Putting aside her palace, dressing in rags and wondering about her next meal? That's absurd.

When God's Son, Jesus Christ, was voluntarily born in a humble manger in Bethlehem, the only people who worshiped Him were lowly shepherds. The stable must have been drafty and not very private. What kind of place was this for the Sovereign of the universe? Where were His crown and His scepter?

Jesus did not live like a king either. He became tired and hungry, was ridiculed, beaten, spit upon, humiliated. The soldiers ripped off His clothes, and He was taken to court before a cruel ruler named Herod. The crowd shouted that they wanted Him killed. All His friends ran away, afraid for their own lives.

Then He was cruelly nailed to a cross in front of a jeering crowd. He could have shaken the world in defiance, but all He said was, "Forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

Jesus did this because God loves us so much. To communicate His love, He had to become one of us -- to walk, talk, eat, and look like us.

Your View of God Really Matters ...

Are you hesitant to completely sell out to God because you are afraid of what you may have to give up? Look at what He gave up for you. Aren't

you glad He didn't "hesitate?" Don't you think you can trust a God who loves you that much?

"A man who denies his past is a man who truly denies himself a future, for he refuses to know himself, and to deny knowledge of oneself is to stumble through life as handicapped as the blind mute." – Tobsha Learner, *The Witch of Cologne*

"Life is filled with unanswered questions, but it is the courage to seek those answers that continues to give meaning to life. You can spend your life wallowing in despair, wondering why you were the one who was led towards the road strewn with pain, or you can be grateful that you are strong enough to survive it." J.D. Stroube, *Caged by Damnation*

The Intimacy of the Table

The table is one of the most intimate places in our lives. It is there that we give ourselves to one another. When we say, "Take some more, let me serve you another plate, let me pour you another glass, don't be shy, enjoy it," we say a lot more than our words express. We invite our friends to become part of our lives. We want them to be nurtured by the same food and drink that nurture us. We desire communion. That is why a refusal to eat and drink what a host offers is so offensive. It feels like a rejection of an invitation to intimacy.

Strange as it may sound, the table is the place where we want to become food for one another. Every breakfast, lunch, or dinner can become a time of growing communion with one another.

You may have heard of product placement in movies. Movies actually get paid to insert the names of products into the story somehow. I just read this story this week. A company actually offered pastors the chance to win \$1,000 and a free trip to London if the pastor would send proof that they mentioned a

particular movie in their sermon. I won't tell you what the movie was, but it's a good movie. It's connected to faith issues, but we live in such a commercially driven society that somebody is actually offering to pay pastors to do product placement in sermons! A perfect example of how consumed we are with our own blessings! That's not God's plan. God's plan is to give you a blessing so you can *be* a blessing.

See, the reason blessing is so central in the Bible is it's the answer to an ultimate, inevitable human question. The question is this: **What is the good life? Who has the good life? Is it people with money, people with looks, people with health?** *Blessing* is the Bible's answer to these questions. Blessing is different than success because it starts with God. It doesn't start with me. It's grace. It's different than success because it's given so I can bless the world. It's not about showing how blessed I am.

May the Lord God Almighty, in his mercy obliterate every word, statement, experience, and invisible barrier you may have constructed that is keeping his blessing from reaching your heart. May the unrelenting love of God pursue you and surprise you with his compassion for you. May the forgiveness of Jesus Christ restore and renew your hearts. May the living waters of the Holy Spirit fill you and flow through you to a struggling and broken world. May God's peace rest upon you, and may the Lord fill you with his joy. May his joy become your strength. In the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.