

COMPELLED BY THE WELL

SHEPHERD CHURCH

John 4:1-38 | July 28, 2024

1. The rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans.

2. The reason Jesus had to go through Samaria.

John 4:3-4 (NIV84) ³When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴Now **he had** to go through Samaria.

A. When Jews travelled from Judea to Galilee the route **never** went through Samaria

B. Greek word for “had” is translated “it was **necessary**.”

- To be unavoidably determined by prior circumstance.

C. Jesus was so connected with the Father, that He knew He who was working in a person’s life and was **compelled** to join Him in the work.

John 5:17-20 (NLT) ¹⁷But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” . . . ¹⁹So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.



3. The significance of the well.

John 4:5-6 (NIV84) ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

4. The Samaritan woman’s timing and visit to the well.

A. Most women went to the well early in the **morning** to draw water for the day.

B. This woman came to the well at **noon**.

- Most theologians believe it was because she was trying to **avoid** the other women!

5. Breaking rules that lead to breaking down barriers.

John 4:7-9 (NIV84) ⁷When 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.) ⁹The 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.)

A. The first broken rule is that a **Rabbi** talks to a woman in public.

- For a Rabbi to be seen speaking to a woman in public would tarnish his **reputation** forever.

B. The second broken rule is that a **Jew** talks to a Samaritan.

- The cultural hatred was so deep, she was **shocked** that Jesus would ask her for water.

6. The conversation that changes everything.

John 4:10-12 (MSG) ¹⁰Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.” ¹¹The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? ¹²Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?”

- A. The woman took Jesus' words literally, but he meant them in a **spiritual** sense.
- In her defense, living water meant water from a **stream** which was always better, but there was no stream around.
 - In Jesus' defense, there was no stream around and she was aware of that.

- B. Jesus makes an audacious claim that His Living Water can satisfy her **thirst** forever.
- John 4:13–14 (NIV84)** ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
- The woman gets **sarcastic** with Jesus!
John 4:15 (NIV84) ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

- C. Jesus ultimately reveals that in the human heart there is a thirst that only Jesus can satisfy.

7. Jesus takes things to a whole new level!

John 4:16–18 (NIV84) ¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

- A. Jesus' comments required her to come face to face with two things:

- First, she had to come to terms that **her efforts** to find meaning and fulfillment had failed.
 - Jesus was helping her see that she could not find what she was looking for **on her own**.

- B. Jesus reveals that as **Messiah**, He is The One that can bring meaning and fulfillment to her life.

John 4:25–26 (NIV84) ²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

- That Jesus knew her and still loved her **changed** everything!
 - This woman had spent the greater part of her life looking for meaning, significance and unconditional love.
 - She looked for it on the arms of men and couldn't find what she was looking for.
 - Then she met Jesus, the one who *knew everything* about her and still loved her.
 - Finally, she had found what she was looking for!

8. A changed life!

John 4:28–29 (NIV84) ²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

- A. Her first response was to **tell others**.

- B. Telling others was evidence of overcoming her past shame, because she was a new person.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV84) ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- The power of her changed life (**testimony**) brought other people to Jesus!

John 4:30 (NLT) ³⁰So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

MY NEXT STEPS:

1. Still haven't found what you're looking for? A relationship with Jesus can change everything!
2. Jesus "had" to go through Samaria. Are you being intentional about helping someone come to know Jesus?
 - Develop a sensitivity to hear the Holy Spirit so you can hear God asking you to join Him.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit if there is someone in your sphere of influence that He is working on and that He would like you to be available to use to minister to them.
 - Say yes to the Holy Spirit.