



March 15, 2020 [Jn. 4: 5-42](#) & Ex. 17_3-7

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[Woman at the Well](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

From the wedding at Cana, to the cleansing of the temple, we face the first rumblings of trouble at the end of chapter two. Nicodemus comes under the cover of night to inquire, and John defuses the anxiety of his disciples by turning them toward Jesus in chapter three. This begins to turn up the heat, and now we find Jesus retreating from Jerusalem to Galilee to turn down the heat. He must have been in a hurry, as he went through Samaria, since Jews really hated to incur the pollution of going through that despised territory of "heretics". (See below) On the way he becomes thirsty and hungry, so the quest for water and food delay the progress a bit. This gives God the chance to reveal truth to those there who were looking for the truth.

John 4:5-42

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 the sixth hour**. 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 flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who **drinks this water** will be **thirsty** again, 14 but 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**." 15 The 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**." 16 He 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. 18 The 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**." 19 Sir," the **woman** said, "I can see that you are a **prophet**. 20 Our fathers **worshiped** on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must **worship** is in **Jerusalem**." 21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, **woman**, a time is coming when you will **worship** the Father neither on this mountain nor in **Jerusalem**. 22 You **Samaritans worship** what you do not know; we **worship** what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the **true worshipers** will **worship** the Father in **spirit** and **truth**, for they are the kind of **worshipers** the Father seeks. 24 God is **spirit**, and his **worshippers** must **worship** in **spirit** and in **truth**."

25 The woman said, "I know that **Messiah**" (called **Christ**) "is coming. When he comes, he will **explain everything** to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "**I** who speak to you **am he**." 27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a **woman**. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 Then, 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?**" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "**Rabbi**, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have **food** to eat that you know nothing about." 33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him **food?**" 34 My **food**," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes** and look at the fields! They are ripe for **harvest**. 36 Even now the reaper draws his **wages**, even now he **harvests** the crop for **eternal life**, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another **reaps**' is **true**. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have **reaped the benefits** of their labor." 39 Many of the **Samaritans** from that town believed in him because of the **woman's** testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the **Samaritans** came to him, they **urged him to stay with them**, and he **stayed two days**. 41 And because of his **words** many more became **believers**. 42 They said to the **woman**, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have **heard for ourselves**, and we know that this man really is the **Savior** of the world."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus asked the woman for something he needed, and in doing so he gave her what she needed most. What is Jesus asking of you, that when you give it to him, you might receive something you need the most?

PRAYER: Friend Jesus, each time I come to the well of your words, I affirm my need for the living water you promised the woman of our reading today. This woman must have first felt your acceptance or she would not have been free to respond the way she did. Her freedom to receive your love had the effect of freeing many more of her people. Help me to fully accept this same freedom and empower me to be a witness to that love for others? Amen.