

In coming to chapter four—I want to first make a few comparisons between this chapter and the previous one—in both chapters our Savior has a discussion with a single person—in chapter 3 Jesus' spoke with Nicodemus and in chapter four a Samaritan woman

[1] There are differences—Nicodemus was a wealthy Jewish man who was outwardly moral—the woman in chapter 4 is an average Samaritan woman who was outwardly immoral—it's almost impossible to describe two people more different...

[2] There are similarities—there is one similarity between Nicodemus and this woman I want to point out—they were both equally LOST—and I suggest this is likely the reason John places these side by side—all men—male/female, rich/poor, Jew/Gentile, moral/immoral—equally need Christ—thus the entire encounter ends in v42 with the assertion—"Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world"—this is the grand lesson of these verses...

- I. The GIFT of Living Water—vv1-10
- II. The NATURE of Living Water—vv11-14
- III. The NEED FOR Living Water—vv15-18

I. The GIFT of Living Water—vv1-10

1. Now—before I go any further—I need to say a few things byway of introduction to this very beautiful encounter...
2. [a] A necessity, vv3-4—"He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria..."
3. For past few weeks our Savior has been in Jerusalem and then outside Jerusalem in the region of Judea baptizing...
4. John informs us that in fact, Jesus didn't baptize anyone, but His disciples were, v2—"though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples..."
5. John now informs us in v3—"He left Judea and departed again to Galilee"—Judea was south and Galilee north...
6. Now—most Jews, especially the Pharisees, when traveling from Judea to Galilee, travelled around Samaria...
7. There were other ways to get to Galilee from Judea—and for various reasons, most Jews avoided Samaria...
8. Thus—when John informs us in v4—"But He needed to go through Samaria"—this need was not geographical...
9. Christ needed to go through Samaria because there was a lost sheep there—a gift given to Him by His Father...
10. Now—let me simply say—that every time a sinner is saved—they are saved because of this same necessity...
11. That is—Christ, by His Spirit, personally goes after each lost elect sinner—bringing them savingly to Himself...
12. Pink—"It is not difficult to understand *why* the Lord must *needs* go through Samaria. There were those in Samaria whom the Father had given Him from all eternity, and there He *must* save. And, dear reader, if you are one of God's elect there is a *needs be* put on the Lord Jesus Christ to save *you*..."
13. [b] A weariness, v5—"So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph..."
14. V6—"Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
15. Here we are reminded of an important truth—while Christ is fully and eternally divine—He's also fully human...

16. What an amazing contrast—having described Christ in exalted ways in ch.3—we now find Him wearied by travel...
17. But—and this is a beautiful twist in this account—though Christ is physically thirsty He offers water to the woman...
18. In other words—if you take Jesus' physical thirst as representative for all His atoning sufferings—He became thirsty in order to quench her thirst...
19. [c] A Samaritan, v7—"A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me a drink...then the woman of Samaria said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans..."
20. Now—at this point let me simply say—that Samaritans were a mixture between Jews and Gentiles—half-breeds...
21. Concerning their Jewish heritage—they claimed to be the descendants of Joseph—the youngest son of Jacob...
22. Thus—the Jews despised the Samaritans as much as or more so than the purely Gentile—they avoided them...
23. As we shall see next week—the religion of the Samaritans was a mixture of Jewish and pagan (Gentile) practices...
24. Thus she says—"For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans"—that is—they don't associate with them in any way...
25. Now—that a Jewish man would associate with a Samaritan woman—was in every way a very unusual thing...
26. But—to make matters worse—our Savior was willing to drink from her water pot—something unheard of...
27. Thus—as I've said—a primary point of this entire encounter is to illustrate the universality of the New Covenant...
28. Gal.3:28—"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus..."
29. [1] The GIFT, v10—"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water..."
30. It seems evident that by "the gift of God" is meant "living water"—that is—"living water" is "the gift of God..."
31. It is the gift that comes from God—it is ultimately to be traced back to heaven—it is a gracious gift from God...
32. Now—the phrase "living water" was a rather common one—it simply refers to springs of fresh and clean water...
33. This would have been in contrast to cisterns with stagnate water—water that didn't flow from a stream or spring...
34. In fact that Jews simply referred to spring water as living water—and spring-fed wells—as wells of living water...
35. This by the way, was the kind of well that Jesus met this woman at—Jacob's well is fed from a fresh stream...
36. I am told that you can go to Samaria today—and still draw cool and fresh water from Jacob's well in Sychar...
37. Thus—the question becomes—what exactly is meant by "living water"—it's obviously figurative language...
38. That is—whatever is meant by "living water" it has similar properties and effects—that physical water has...
39. Thus—our Savior is purposefully or intentionally using the imagery of spring water—to teach spiritual truth...
40. Now—I suggest in the broadest sense it refers to God in Christ, and spiritual life applied to sinners by the Spirit...
41. Jer.2:13—"My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *and* dug themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water..."

42. But in a more narrowed sense—the Scripture usually associates the imagery of water to the work of the Spirit...
43. For—it's the Holy Spirit who unites us to Christ—in whom we find salvation, or the springs of living water...
44. Isa.44:3—"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring..."
45. This is a one of several OT prophecies that use the imagery of water to describe the gift of the Spirit and salvation...
46. Notice—man is described as thirsty and dry ground—the Spirit will be poured out as He would bring salvation...
47. Thus—living water revives, restores, and refreshes the soul—that is, the Spirit revives, restores, and refreshes the soul...
48. Jn.7:38-39—"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified..."
49. [a] Living water is found in Christ, v37—"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink"—there is water in Him...
50. Or, put another way—there is LIFE in Christ—He is the well of salvation—"he who has Christ has life" (1Jn.5:11-12)...
51. [b] Living water comes from the Spirit, 39—"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive..."
52. This means that the Spirit communicates from Christ spiritual life to our dead souls satisfying them with Christ...
53. Thus—by "living water" is meant spiritual life worked within the soul, because of Christ, by the Holy Spirit...
54. Rom.6:23—"For the wages of sin is death, but the GIFT OF GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord..."
55. [2] The GIVER—"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water..."
56. It's rather evident that Christ Himself is the bestower or giver of this gift—He is the gift and giver of the gift...
57. That is—Christ comes into the heart bearing gifts—and the first and perhaps greatest gift He gives—is His Spirit...
58. Now—here I want to remind you what we saw last week—that the Father put all things in the hand of Christ...
59. Christ is the well which houses this water—and the Spirit takes this water from Christ and satisfies the soul...
60. Jn.17:1-2—"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him [Jn.6:27]..."
61. Rev.21:6—"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts (Acts 2:33, 38)..."

II. The NATURE of Living Water—vv11-14

1. Now—it's obvious that this woman, similar to Nicodemus, thought our Savior was referring to physical water...
2. V11—"The woman said to Him, Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock..."
3. It seems likely—that this response contains a measure of sarcasm and Samaritan pride—they had Jacob's well...
4. Our Savior simply ignores her ignorance (as He did to Nicodemus) and describes three things about the water He gives...

5. [1] It satisfies, v14—"Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst..."
6. That is—there is nothing within this world—that can satisfy our deepest need—that can remedy our greatest problem...
7. Put another way—man's greatest problems are spiritual—and NOTHING physical can remedy those problems...
8. No amount of physical things can satisfy spiritual needs—drinking deeply from this world does not satisfy...
9. This seen later in v14—"But the water that I shall give him will become IN HIM a fountain of water"—it's within him...
10. In other words—the water Christ gives enters into our souls—it satisfies the deepest need of man's heart or soul...
11. Now—if the living water is the Spirit's work of spiritual life found in Christ, then that need is easy to identify...
12. Every man by nature is born spiritually dead—that is—separated from God—removed from fellowship with Him...
13. This is the single need that this living water is intended to remedy—it is this need that Christ's water satisfies...
14. Isa.55:1-2—"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; and you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what* is not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance..."
15. Now—here I need to clarify a few things about the satisfaction that Christ attributes to the water that He gives...
16. Nowhere does Scripture promise that Christ will satisfy every perceived need we have—as if He promises to satisfy every desire...
17. No—but Christ does promise to meet every true and legitimate spiritual need—that our souls will or may have...
18. Neither does Christ mean—that if you drink the water He gives—then all of your problems will forever go away...
19. No—but again He does promise that if you come to Him—He will make your greatest problem go away forever...
20. Furthermore—when our Savior says—"you will never thirst"—He does not mean we shall no longer thirst spiritually...
21. Matt.5:6—"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" Ps.42:2—"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..."
22. But the point being—once we have drunk from this well—we shall continually thirst for more of this water...
23. But—we shall no longer thirst for the water of this world—and to some degree or another—our souls will be satisfied...
24. [2] It's abundant, v14b—"But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water"—an abundant and constant supply...
25. The water that's found in Christ is not a little puddle—but it's a fountain that provides an abundance of water...
26. Now—remember what this water is—it's spiritual life—life with God in Christ—the life of God in man's soul...
27. Ps.36:7-9—"How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You *is* the fountain of life; In Your light we see light..."
28. Jn.10:10—"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly..."
29. [3] It's eternal—"springing up to eternal life"—that is—this fountain NEVER ends—it flows for all eternity...

30. More than one commentator mentioned that this passage clearly teaches the durable nature of life in the soul...

III. The NEED FOR Living Waters—vv15-18

1. Our Savior does not end with describing the water He offers her—but He continues to show her need for that water...
2. That is—He continues to show her sin and the vain and empty life she had been living—without this living water...
3. V15—"The woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw"—it's obvious she's still thinking about physical water...
4. V16—"Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband, and come here"—our Savior put His finger on her obvious sin...
5. V17—"The woman answered and said, I have no husband"—this was technically true—she had no present husband...
6. It seems likely that this woman was trying to hide something—she knew she had five husbands in the past...
7. She knew that the man she presently lived with wasn't her husband—she knew it and tried to conceal it from Him...
8. V17—"Jesus said to her, You have well said, I have no husband, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband: in that you spoke truly..."
9. Now—we are not told what happened to her five husbands—did they die, divorce her, or did she divorce them...
10. It really makes little difference—for the fact was—she was presently living with a man that was not her husband...
11. And—it seems likely at least—she was not without some guilt with regards to her previous give husbands...
12. Now—I think it's important here to notice that our Savior—specifically puts His finger on her besetting sin...
13. This woman was looking for satisfaction and acceptance in relationships with men—they were her broken cisterns...
14. [1] It's necessary—that is—it's necessary because man by nature doesn't thirst for the water found in Christ...
15. Thus—the problem is people, though they thirst for this world, they don't natively thirst for the right things...
16. The imagery is that native man is in a spiritual and moral desert—seeking to satisfy his needs with salt water...
17. Anything viewed as the ultimate end or purpose will prove but an broken cistern—people, possessions, and pleasures...
18. Tragically, even Christians can for a season—return to these broken cisterns to find satisfaction and contentment...
19. [2] It's preparatory—that is—making a sinner thirsty is but preparatory that we would come to Christ and drink...
20. Thus—the first thing God does in saving a sinner is—He makes them thirsty for the water of life as found in Christ...
21. John Calvin—"When Christ perceived that jeers and scoffs were her only reply to what he had said, he applied an appropriate remedy to this disease, by striking the woman's conscience with a conviction of her sin..."
22. J.C. Ryle—"Till men and women are brought to feel their sinfulness and need, no real good is ever done to their souls. Till a sinner sees himself as God sees him, he will continue careless and unmoved. By all means we must labor to convince the unconverted man of sin, to prick his conscience, to open his eyes, to show him himself..."
23. Rev.22:17—"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely..."