

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes
Chapter 4 PT. 1: Jesus Goes to Galilee

John 4:1-26

John 4:1-6 (NASB) – “¹ So then, when the Lord **knew** that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (**although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were**), ³ He left Judea and went away again to Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”

Knew-(Greek)-*ginōskō*-to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, feel.

Understanding: Jesus knows what jealousy and envy can do!

Verses 1-2

John 4:1 (NASB) -“...He was making and baptizing more disciples than John...”



- The moment Jesus knew the Pharisees heard...
- Jesus was making and baptizing **more** disciples than John.
- They already had a problem with John the Baptist, now Jesus is doing **more**.

Key: The spiritual cataracts of the green-eyed monster (The Dragon) have blinded them to reality (“**although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were**” - Verse 2).

John the Baptist Confronted by the Pharisees

John 1:24-25 (NASB) – “²⁴ And *the messengers* had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, ‘Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’”

Verses 3-6

John 4:3-6 (NASB) – “³ He left Judea and went away again to Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”

John 4:4 (KJV) – “And he must needs go through Samaria.”

Understanding: In a grammatical sense, the phrase “**must needs**” contributes to the meaning of obligation or necessity, rather than one negating the other.



- The ancient city of **Shechem** was in the hill country of Samaria.
- This was a literal crossroads of activity during Bible times.
- Pivotaly positioned between two mountains along a key road running through central Israel.
- It was a necessity to go this route or go miles around the mountains, which was not an option.

Historical Connection

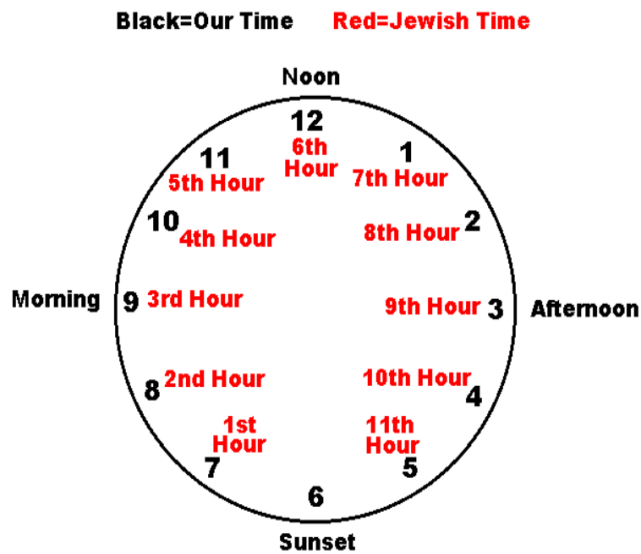
Genesis 33:18-19 (NASB) – “¹⁸ Now Jacob came safely to the city of **Shechem**, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. ¹⁹ **He bought the plot of land** where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for a hundred pieces of money. ²⁰ Then he erected there an altar and called it **El-Elohe - Israel.**”



- Jacob came through a perilous journey, in which he had met many difficulties. He came safely, at last, into Canaan.
- The first thing Jacob does is build an altar to G-d in gratitude and with a thankful heart.
- It is here where he buys a field, even though Canaan was his by promise.
- Just because it’s promised, **does not** mean it comes at **no cost**.
- Jacob knew the rest he now has was a gift from G-d.
- The altar is specifically to honor the G-d of **El-elohe – Israel: G-d, the G-d of Israel.**

“About the sixth hour”

Understanding: G-d does not waste words and nothing is just happening. This is a specific time of day.



- This is traditionally understood as noon, according to the Jewish method of timekeeping.
- This highlights the humanity of Jesus, who experienced physical fatigue, and sets the stage for a profound theological discourse on living water and true worship.
- It was in the “**sixth hour**” that **Mark 15:33**, begins the narrative of the crucifixion of our Lord, until the “ninth hour”; symbolizing the moment Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the World.
- The “**sixth hour**” is also where the account of Peter’s vision in **Acts 10:9** takes place, leading to the opening of the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- In Jewish tradition, the “**sixth hour**” was a time for rest and refreshment from the work that has already been done.

The Samaritan Woman/The Woman of Samaria

Verses 7-8

John 4:7-8 (NASB) – “⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ ⁸ **For** His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.”

For-(Greek)-*gár*-a primary particle; properly, assigning a reason (used in argument, explanation, or intensification).



Note: Jesus did not ask her, **in this moment**, for water because He wanted water. The true reason for asking was because He knew His disciples would not be there to stop Him from speaking to her.

Verse 9

John 4:9 (NASB) – “⁹ So the Samaritan woman said to Him, ‘How *is it* that You, *though* You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, *though* I am a Samaritan woman?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”

Cities of Israel Filled with Strangers



2 Kings 17:24 (NASB) – “Then the king of Assyria brought *people* from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.”

- Israel’s captivity by the Assyrians was a just judgment for their sins.
- It was the consequences for their persistent idolatry and disobedience to G-d.
- The Israelites were scattered among the nations and eventually lost their national identity.

- A mixed population remained in the land after the exile.
- The Samaritans were a result of the intermingling of the Israelites with the people who were brought in by the Assyrians.

Jesus' Response To the Samaritan Woman

Verses 10-14

John 4:10-14 (NASB) – “¹⁰ Jesus replied to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, “Give Me a drink,” you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’ ¹¹ She said to Him, ‘Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get *this* living water? ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?’ ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.’”



Verse 10 - “If you knew the gift of God *and* who it is saying to you...”

- Many theologians believe the word “*and*” should be stated as “*namely*”.
- Jesus is referencing the gift of Himself.
- Jesus is saying, Salvation is standing before her and she could not see it.
- Jesus is not as concerned with her nationality as He is with her moral condition.
(“Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep” - Verse 11.)
- In other words, “If you knew who I Am!”

Verses 15-18

John 4:15-18 (NASB) – “¹⁵ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come *all the way* here to draw *water*.’ ¹⁶ He said to her, ‘Go, call your husband and come here.’ ¹⁷ The woman answered and said to Him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have correctly said, “I have no husband”; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this *which* you have said *is* true.’”

Understanding: For Jesus to bring her from the literal understanding of the “**Living Water**” to a spiritual understanding, He must confront her moral condition.

- Sin must be dealt with before any true understanding of spirituality can be achieved. (**Revelation before Relationship.**)
- John the Baptist laid the same foundation. (“**Repent for the Kingdom is at hand**” - Matthew 3:2.)

Verse 19

John 4:19 (NASB) – “¹⁹ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.’”



Perceive-(Greek)-*theōréō*-to view attentively, take a view of, survey. i.e. discern, (literally, figuratively (experience) or intensively (acknowledge))

Ex.: Give someone in sin a “**Word of Knowledge**”, “**Prophecy**” or a “**Word of Wisdom**”; watch the shift in perception!

Verses 20-22

John 4:20-22 (NASB) – “²⁰ ‘Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.’ ²¹ Jesus said to her, ‘Believe Me, woman, that 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, because salvation is from the Jews.’”

Note: The Samaritan woman is still not quite in focus spiritually. She is focused on the “**where**” of worship. Jesus is trying to get her to see the “**who**” and “**how**”.

- Worship is not a place.
- Worship is not sound.
- Worship is “Spirit and Truth”.

Verses 23-24

John 4:23-24 (NASB) – “²³ But a time is coming, and **even now has arrived**, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks *to be* His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and **those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”

Understanding: Grace without the Truth is false doctrine. Truth without Grace is the Law. But Grace **AND** Truth is Good News (the Gospel). It’s Spirit & Truth!

Verses 25-26

John 4:25-26 (NASB) – “²⁵ The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.’ ²⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘I am *He*, the One speaking to you.’”



Understanding: Truth brings its own Revelation - “I am He”.

- Without Truth, you CANNOT have Revelation!

The End