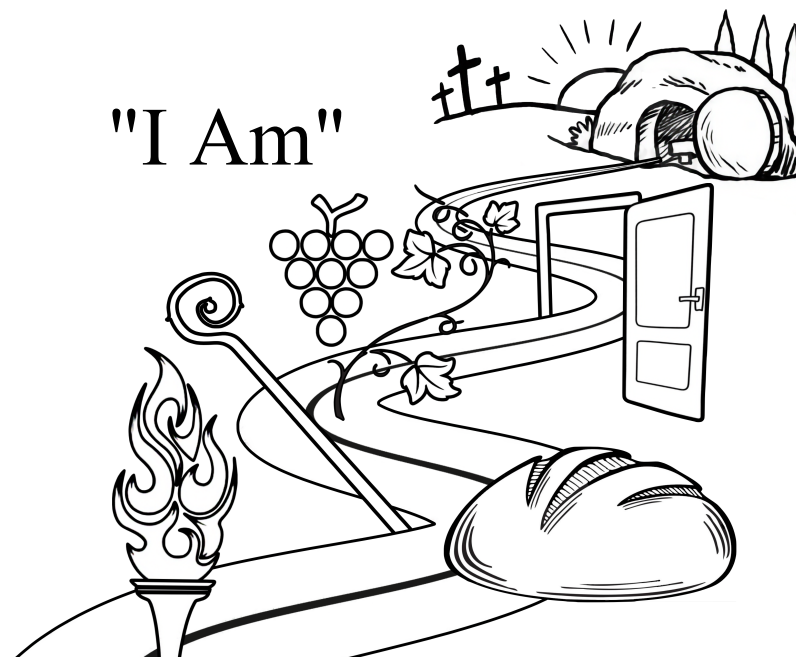


23. Imagine the discourse in vv.34-38 going on as he and his disciples are witnessing an entire village come out to meet Jesus. Jesus is looking at the "fields ripe for harvest." Is he speaking temporally or spiritually?
24. Who might Jesus be comparing to a sower in v. 37?
25. How might v. 38 be a "dig" to the disciples?

In conclusion:

26. What has John's audience learned about Jesus from this encounter?
- About Samaria?
 - About Jesus' relationship to all Israel?
 - About who Jesus is?
 - About what Jesus offers?
 - About his attention toward the "*least of these*"?
27. What have you learned about Jesus from this encounter?
- Things that make you go, "Hmmm...." – did Jesus ever get a drink of water or any food?*



a study of
The Gospel According to John

Summer 2025

Lesson #5

John 4:1-42

"Samaritan Bride"

REVIEW:

John chapters one through three teach us who Jesus is and emphasize the importance for disciples to testify about Him. Here are the lessons from John so far:

1. Disciples recognize Jesus as one with God. He is the creator, and the bearer of light and truth, life and salvation. Disciples are called to share the good news about Jesus. John 1
2. Disciples understand Jesus is the Bridegroom, who embodies lavish abundance. Disciples know Jesus is the New Temple and dwelling place of God. John 2
3. Disciples seek God's Spirit for renewal of mind and heart. Disciples are reminded that Jesus is the Bridegroom of the Church, and we decrease as he increases. John 3

BRIEF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT:

Chapter four's encounter features an unlikely witness and introduces the Gospel's message to the most unexpected people: an unnamed Samaritan, a woman, and an entire Samaritan village. We are not going to debate the nearly 2000 years of horrible theology concerning a woman with five husbands. 1 Kings 17 will set us straight along with the metaphorical dialogue throughout this passage. 1 Kings provides clues about the hostility between Jews and Samaritans. John places this Jesus encounter in the midst of a people seen as half-breeds and less than human. No "good Jew" would travel through Samaria. According to the map, traveling between Judah and Galilee meant going around Samaria, crossing the Jordan River twice. This passage places John's focus on Jesus as the Bridegroom; let's explore this theme further.

Read the following passages: Ezekiel 16:1-43

Isaiah 54:5 Jeremiah 3:14 Hosea 2:2
Jeremiah 3:20 Jeremiah 31:31-32

1. Discuss the implications of God as a husband to Israel.
2. Compare the above readings with 1 Kings 17:24-34

Read John 4:1-8; Genesis 29:1-2, 4-7; Genesis 24:3-4, 10-11, 15-16

3. Where does Jesus meet the woman and at what time of day and where does Jacob meet his bride, and at what time of day?

Read Genesis 24:3-4, 10-11, 15-16; Exodus 2:15-16, 19-22

4. Who are these great Old Testament figures in Genesis?
5. Discuss the significance of "boy meets girl at a well" in Hebrew history.

Read John 4:9-15

6. Do you think Jesus' request for water is temporal (earthly) or spiritual? Why or why not?
7. What does the woman know of Samaritan theological history (v. 12)?
8. What is Jesus saying about water, and about himself? Again, is he speaking literally or metaphorically?
9. What do you make of her response in v. 15?

Read John 4:16-26

10. Do you think Jesus' request for her husband is temporal (earthly) or spiritual? Why or why not?
11. What do you make of this discussion in light of the "Five Husbands of Samaria?"
12. What are some phrases that infer the woman has deep theological interest and curiosity?
13. Do any of Jesus' words to the woman lead us to believe he is calling out her personal sinfulness? Whose sin is he referring to in verse 18? Might she be a representative of the Samaritan people?
14. What are Jesus' responses to the woman that infer his delight in speaking with her (v. 26)?
15. What is significant in the fact that John has Jesus reveal his Messiahship in this particular encounter?

Read John 4:27-42

16. Compare v. 25 "I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us" with vs. 29 and 39.
17. How effective is the woman as an evangelist?
18. Compare the last sentence of v. 9 "*Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.*" to v. 40? What is the significance of these two verses, or what would John's community have heard in this comparison?

Meanwhile, let's return to the disciples

19. What have the disciples been doing all this time?
20. What is their reaction to Jesus and the woman?
21. Compare what the disciples brought back from town with what the woman brought back from town?
22. What does Jesus say that infers his satisfaction with the woman's encounter? Is his reference to food temporal or spiritual?