

John 4:1-30 & 39-42

John 4: 10 & 14 – “(10) Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. ... (14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

We will begin with **John 4:4** were we read, “And he must needs go through Samaria.”

Must? How can God be constrained to do something?

This is what is sometimes called the divine “must.” Though strictly speaking, God is never under any constraint to do anything outside of His already determined will and purposes, yet, at times, we read that He Must do something.

When we read **John 4:4**, we must understand the word **must** as being a self-constraint. Jesus Christ put this **must** upon himself. He did so out of his great compassion for sinners.

There are two truths that we must always keep in mind.

First, all God's divine appointments begin in eternity with Himself.

Second, all God's divine appointments will be met! His decrees, his will, and his purposes, shall all be accomplished!

Now let us look at the text.

The first thing to consider is that there are other routes to Samaria. This route is taken because Jesus Christ **must** take it. He takes this route to Jacob's well, not from lack of other routes, but out of determination to fulfill an appointment he made in eternity.

Second, there are other women who need a Saviour to forgive them of their sins. The woman of John chapter four is not the only woman living in sin and in need of forgiveness. Our Lord's meeting with her is based upon the constraint he has put upon himself. Their meeting is not from a lack of sinful women – not from lack of sinners but by divine appointment – Jesus Christ **must** meet her on that day at that place!

The divine **must** is upon the Lord Jesus Christ because he has put it upon himself!

He **must** go through Samaria. He **must** speak to this woman who is a sinner for he **must** save her from her sins! Others may perish without repenting of their sins, but she **must** be saved!

Because Jesus Christ has purposed to save her he **must** go to where she is to accomplish that divine work.

John, quoting the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, records that there are others like this woman of Samaria.

In **John 10:16** Jesus said, “And **other sheep** I have, which are not of this fold: **them also I must bring**, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

John 4:6 – “Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.”

Jesus ... being wearied ... is a phrase which indicates **the humanity of Jesus Christ**. Always remember that Jesus Christ is both God and man at the same time.

He is one undivided person who is both God and man.

This text, like so many others in the Scriptures sets forth the deity and the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a man he is weary from the journey but he is also God who knows all things about her (**John 4:17-18 and verse 29**).

At his birth he is a baby in a manger and at the same time it is said of him, “unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” -- **Luke 2:11** and, “... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins ... and they shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is God with us.” **Matthew 1:21 & 23**

In Mark's gospel he is asleep in the bottom of a boat because he is weary but when he is awakened because of a storm he calms the storm! **Mark 4:36-39**.

John records that he stands at a friend's grave and weeps and then calls that friend forth from that same grave as a testimony of his deity! **John 11:35 & 43**.

Sometimes we read that he is weary. Sometimes we read that he miraculously speaks and the wind and waves obey his command. The same person is fully God and fully man at the very same time.

Oh, how great is this mystery of godliness – God was manifest as a man (**I Timothy 3:16**).

John 4:6 – **Jesus ... sat thus on the well ...** (Jacob's well at Sychar -- **John 4:5-6**)

The place where our Lord chose to rest was the very place the woman was coming on that day! He knew where she was -- he knew where he would find her.

Sinner, he knows all things about you. You cannot hide from him.

John 4:7 – “There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.”

There cometh a woman of Samaria --

Not just any woman but a very specific woman – a woman of Samaria!

See **John 5:2-5** – “(2) Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. (3) In these lay **a great multitude** of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. (4) For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. (5) And **a certain man** was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.”

Note: You should contrast the words “great multitude” in verse three with the words “a certain man” in verse five. Jesus came to Bethesda on that day to heal (and save) a “certain” man.

Mark 5:24-25 – “(24) And Jesus went with him; and **much people** followed him, and thronged him. (25) And **a certain woman**, which had an issue of blood twelve years ...”

Again, contrast the phrase **much people** in verse twenty-four with the phrase **a certain woman** in verse twenty-five. It is a truth found throughout the word of God that Jesus Christ heals (saves/forgives) only certain individuals.

He saves those who know themselves to be a needy sinner. He saves those who have no hope but the hope put in their hearts by the Holy Spirit in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 18:35 – “And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, **a certain blind man** sat by the way side begging:”

A multitude were following the Lord Jesus Christ, but only this blind man (an example of a blind sinner) called out for Jesus Christ to have mercy upon him.

Jesus would heal (save) this blind man (**Luke 18:42**) as he was about enter Jericho. He would then enter Jericho and save Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:9**), and as he was leaving would heal (save) another blind man named Bartimaeus (**Mark 10:46 & 52**).

After that he left Jericho and never returned. There were **certain** sinners there who needed his forgiveness and salvation.

Acts 3:2 – “And a **certain man** lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;”

Here is another example of a **certain** sinner in need of a Saviour. Are you like him?

Acts 10:1 – “There was a **certain man** in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,”

This will serve as our last example of how God saves **certain** sinners who know and feel their need of him.

Are you one of those? Will you be in that number?

John 4:7 -- There cometh a woman of Samaria –

She was an outcast of Jewish society (see verse 9).

But, it also seems that she was an outcast of Samaritan society (see verse 6). It was the sixth hour. It was noon. All the other women had come earlier to the well for their water. She came later. It was probable that she was an outcast of proper female society.

John 4:7 – “... to draw water ...”

She does not come to the well to meet the Saviour. She is not seeking a Saviour. She is not longing to be saved from her sins. She does not even know who the Saviour is.

She does not go to the well for any other reason than to get water. She had gone there so many times before to get a pot of water for the day. It was a common practice for her – it was commonly mundane.

When she woke that morning she probably thought that there was nothing different about her day. It was a regular day fraught with regular daily duties.

But that day was going to be a different day.

The Lord Jesus Christ determined on that particular day he would save her from her sins!

It would be a day in which he would satisfy the spiritual need of her soul with eternal life.

John 4:10 -- “Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God**, and who it is

that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water.**”

Here, the Lord Jesus Christ makes a divine declaration of eternal life!

See John 4:14 & 42 – “(14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into **everlasting life** ... (42) And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that **this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour** of the world.”

“If thou knewest ...”

First, she does not know what living water, everlasting life, or salvation is! Nor does she know who Jesus Christ is!

She neither knows her need nor the one who can fulfill that need.

“thou wouldest have asked of him”

Second, salvation must be sought after -- asked for -- called for -- prayed for -- requested -- the thirsty must drink - the hungry must eat -- the weary one must rest -- the lost one must call for help -- the prisoner must ask for deliverance!

She does not ask because she does not yet know her need!

“He would have given thee living water”

The **“living water”** in verse 10 is later described in verse 14 as **“everlasting life”** and as **“salvation”** In verse 42.

John 4:15 – “The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”

Here we see her ask for physical satisfaction and blessings because she still does not know her spiritual need.

Her interest is **“that I come not hither to draw.”**

Compare John 6:26-27 – “(26) Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Ye seek me**, not because ye saw the miracles, but **because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.** (27) **Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth**

unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”

Jesus Christ did not come to this earth as God’s great sacrifice for sinners to provide them with their physical desires. He is a Saviour who saves His people from their sins!

Jesus Christ does not promise that when a sinner is given everlasting life they will never have to lack for this world’s goods or that their life would be easier -- free from toil or distress. But he does promise that they will never have to lack spiritual blessings -- they **shall never thirst** for spiritual blessings!

Note: She says, “... give me this water ...” She asks but does not receive!

Can a sinner ask and not receive? If so, what is the problem?

Her problem is two-fold.

First, she does not understand that for which she asks.

Second, she is not ready to receive that of which he speaks.

Note: Jesus Christ does not leave her ignorant as to her condition, her need, or the remedy.

John 4:16-18 – “(16) Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. (17) The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: (18) For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”

Jesus Christ reveals the first and most important aspect of her great need.

Her truest and greatest need is that she is a sinner and in need of one who can forgive her sins.

John 4:20-24 – “(20) Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. (21) Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. (23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Jesus Christ reveals the second aspect of her great need.

That is, her religious activity cannot satisfy God or bring her forgiveness of sins or salvation.

Jesus Christ is calling her to leave her religion (**John 4:23** – “**The Father seeketh such ...**) and to follow him.

See Philippians 3:4-9 – “(4) Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: (5) Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; (6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (7) **But what things** (religious or otherwise) **were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

John 4:25-26 – “(25) The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. (26) Jesus saith unto her, **I that speak unto thee am he.**”

Here is divine salvation! -- I am he!

See **Isaiah 12:2-3** – “(2) Behold **God is my salvation;** I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; **he also is become my salvation.** (3) Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”

Salvation is found in a person and not in an activity or a religion. It is Christ in you that is the hope of eternal glory. (**Colossians 1:27**)

John 4:28-30 – “(28) The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, (29) **Come, see** a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? (30) Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.”

Divine salvation and its effects! Being filled with joy over her sins being forgiven, she immediately wants others to know the Lord Jesus Christ as she knows him. She says, “Come see!”

See John 1:43-46 – “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, **Come and see.**”

John 4:39-42 – “(39) And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. (40) So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. (41) And many more believed because of his own word; (42) And said unto the woman, **Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.**”

Note: Our testimony is good but God's work is better!

It is important that we share what Jesus Christ has done for us. God uses our personal testimony. But, more importantly, God uses His word.

These Samaritans said, “we have heard him ourselves ...”