



IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

SERIES: UNDAUNTED (JOHN 4)

LESSON: INVESTIGATE

JOHN 4:10-15

1/17/21

MAIN POINT

The water that Jesus offers quenches even the deepest thirst and longing—and he offers it to all.

JOHN CONTEXT

Every lesson's purpose: "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

INTRODUCTION

Let's review last week. Who are the characters? What is surprising about these characters and their interactions?

Last week we were introduced to a new, unlikely character in the ministry of Jesus—the Samaritan woman. We saw that Jesus is the minister who saves the unlikely ones. This week we will begin looking at his message, and how his message is delivered to a specific person in a specific context.

EXPLANATION // ...believe Jesus is the Christ...

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ SCRIPTURE TEXT – JOHN 4:10-15

Last week we used some literacy tools for understanding narrative. This week we will continue using those tools to help us understand what Jesus' message is all about. First, let's look at the dialogue. What does Jesus talk to the Samaritan woman about the most in these verses? What themes emerge as you read?

How does she respond to Jesus (verses 11, 12, 15)? How is this a continuation of how she responded in the previous verses? (Make sure you show this in the text)

Water is mentioned nine times in these verses, which makes sense because they are sitting by a well and the woman came specifically to draw water from the well. But it seems that there are two types of water being talked about here. What are they? And what are the differences between them?

This begins a theme in this chapter of Jesus using a physical reality to point to the spiritual need. He is sitting by a well. A woman comes to draw water. She has a clear physical need for water. But, as we will see, she has a deeper spiritual need for a water that satisfies forever.

The conversation with the Samaritan woman is meant to serve as a contrast to the conversation with Nicodemus. Use the following table to help notice the similarities and differences between Jesus’ interaction with Nicodemus in John 3:1-9 and his interaction with the Samaritan woman here in John 4:10-15.

Compare	Contrast

There are a lot of similarities between these interactions. They both talk about water (Nicodemus needs to be born of water, Jesus offers living water to the woman). They both take Jesus literally, and as a result they misunderstand him. In both interactions, Jesus is getting at the impossibility of their salvation by interacting with them at their deepest needs in their hearts. But their differences are striking too, most notably in the fact that Nicodemus is the one who is expected to understand these things. He is the religious one. He is the man. He is the Jew. This is an important detail to keep in mind for future lessons.

Now let’s unpack what Jesus means by “living water.”

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ISAIAH 12:3, 44:3, 55:1-3; EZEKIEL 47:1-12

Based on these scriptures, what is the living water that Jesus brings? Have your group list aspects of this living water that you find in these verses.

Now that you have discovered the meaning of living water, what do you think Jesus is offering to this woman here? Think back to what we know about the cultural and historical context. How does this strike you?

Why do you think Jesus emphasizes living water with the Samaritan woman and being born again with Nicodemus?

How do these two realities essentially say the same thing?

A common theme in the Gospel of John is to use the physical reality to point to the spiritual need. This woman is coming to the well because she needs physical water. This is not unique. But Jesus also knows that she is coming to the well with a deeper need for spiritual water. She has a thirst that cannot be quenched by coming to this well, and as we will see next week, she is trying to quench that thirst by any earthly means possible. Jesus knows this and speaks a better

word to her. He offers her water that can always satisfy. He offers her something that only he can bring. Like his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus' message to her is based on her need. Nicodemus needed rebirth. She needs to be satisfied and filled. Nicodemus needed to see that he could not earn his salvation. She needs to see that only living water will quench the deep void in her soul. Both of them are in need of something new that they cannot provide for themselves. They need life. They need new hearts. They need salvation. And standing before them both is the Promised One who brings life in his name (John 20:31). But what is equally striking about this interaction is the fact that this does not just fulfill the prophesy of living water, it also fulfills the prophesy of Jews and Gentiles partaking in the salvation the Messiah brings. He comes to bring life not just to his own, but to the world. This will be unpacked even further as we continue to look at John 4 in the coming weeks.

One last question of discovery. What is our purpose verse for the Gospel of John? Look at verses 13-14, how is the purpose verse being fulfilled in this week's passage?

APPLICATION // ...have life in His name.

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Jesus deals with people differently based on their needs. In your interactions with unbelievers, in what ways can you emphasize aspects of the salvation he brings differently? Maybe you can think of a specific person in your life that needs this message. Tell your group how you would bring Jesus' message differently to them or how you would initiate the conversation with them.

Perhaps we think we know the gospel message and we could explain it if someone asked. But if someone asked you, "How can I place my trust in Christ now?" what would you say? What are some things you could do to lead them through making that decision? What might be some good follow up things you can do with that person?

PRAYER

Close in prayer, asking God to press this truth that was studied.

BE PREPARED

One of the best ways to get a grasp of the text is to read the sermon text ahead of time. Many of us want to spend more time in the Bible in the new year—what better way than reading along with the sermon series! Below is the text for next week, along with some questions you can use to help you get acquainted with the text on your own time.

1. Read John 4:16-26. During this reading don't write down anything. Just read the text.
2. Observe: Read the text again.
 - Write down as many questions you can think of. These can be questions like "What does Jesus mean by XX?" or "Why does he bring up the details about her husbands?" "What is true worship?"
 - Write down as many repeated phrases (or repeated ideas you've heard of before). Write down key ideas from their interaction with each other. What does Jesus talk to her about? How does she respond to him?
3. Interpret: Read the text again.
 - Can you think of any other verses in scripture that tie into what you've just read? In the Old Testament? What about the New Testament? If you need help, that's okay! That's a normal part of studying the Bible. Pull out a study Bible or an online program that includes cross references. This will help you see where other verses tie into what is happening in this text.
 - Read John 20:31—how does this verse explain what is happening in this text?

RESOURCES

[The Gospel According to John by D.A. Carson](#)

[John Study: Read, Mark, Learn by St. Helen's Bishopsgate](#) (For extra study questions)

[You Will Never Be Thirsty Again by John Piper](#) (sermon)

