

The Fields Are White for Harvest: John 4:1–42
Jaunting thru John: Message 9

Grace Chapel

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW OF THE PROLOGUE (John 1:1–18)

The prologue introduces some major themes of the book:

Jesus Christ is a member of the Trinity. He created the universe. John the Baptist testified about Him, so that everyone might believe in Christ, but when Christ came to His own people, most of them rejected Him, but all who believe in Him become God's children through faith in Him (not through physical birth).

THE FIRST DISCIPLES (John 1:19–51)

John the Baptist consistently pointed to Christ even before Sadducees and Pharisees who interrogated him. The second time that he pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God, two of John's disciples followed Christ. In the following week several other disciples of John the Baptist believed in Jesus and began following Him.

FIRST SIGN WITNESSED BY JOHN (John 2:1–11)

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding. His mother told Him that they had no wine. After making it clear that He functioned according to the Father's timetable (not according to Mary's) Jesus turned water into wine that was so good that the headwaiter commented to the bridegroom (who knew nothing of the wine's origin), so Jesus' disciples (who witnessed this) believed in Him (whereas they had previously been dependent upon John the Baptist's testimony

FIRST CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE (John 2:13–22)

Just before Passover Jesus chased the venders out of the Temple and identified the cross and resurrection as the sign giving Him the right to cleanse the Temple. Many believed in Him when they saw His signs, but He did not entrust Himself to the crowds. Nicodemus became a believer when out of the dark night He came into Jesus' presence. The signs told him that Jesus was a God-sent teacher, but was puzzled about the new birth, but kept asking Jesus to clarify: which Jesus did, believing in Him gives on everlasting life; John the Baptist also continued pointing to Christ: even when his ministry was being eclipsed by that of Jesus, he told others that everlasting life came only by believing in Christ.

EXPOSITIONAL REVIEW: John 4:1–26

Therefore Jesus went from Judea to Galilee when the Pharisees discovered He had more baptized disciples than John (4:1–3)

Jesus needed to go through Samaria and rested by Jacob's well as He came to Sychar after a long day's walk (4:4–6)

Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink as His disciples were away buying food, but she chided Him for disobeying Judean scruples about dealings with Samaritans (4:7–9)

Though Jesus first requested a favor from her, He asserted that she would have requested living water from Him, if she had known God's gift and the Giver (4:10)

What is living water?

John 7:39 (itself) tells us not to equate it with the Holy Spirit

John 4 identifies living water with *the message that gives everlasting life*

The woman expressed her doubts that He actually could give her living water, because He did not seem great enough to deliver on His promise to her (4:11–12)

Jesus said that the living water He gives is greater than the best spring water: an eternal thirst quencher, an artesian well springing up into everlasting life (4:13–14)

She wanted that eternal thirst quencher so she would not need to draw again (4:15)

When He told her to return w/ her husband, she said she was unmarried (4:16–17a)

Jesus affirmed that she spoke truthfully in saying she was unmarried, because she did not marry the man she then lived with (after having 5 husbands) (4:17b–18)

[Based on His disclosure about her] she affirmed that He was a prophet and mentioned the Samaritan versus Judean controversy over the proper location of the Temple [expecting Jesus to withdraw the offer of living water] (4:19–20)

[Rather than rescinding the offer] Jesus told her that the controversy over the proper location of the temple would soon become irrelevant (4:21)

Jesus indicated that Samaritans worshipped in ignorance, in rejecting the idea that God's salvation comes through Judeans (specifically, the Messianic lineage) (4:22)

God is now (even in Samaria) seeking true worshippers who would worship the Father in spirit and truth: the only way that God can be truly worshipped (4:23–24)

She hinted at whether Jesus might be the Messiah, because the coming Messiah would explain everything (4:25)

Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah [and she believed Him] (4:26)

NEW EXPOSITION:

Jesus' returning disciples were amazed that He spoke with a woman (4:27)

They had gone into town to buy food (cf. 4:7)

The woman left her waterpot as she returned to town and persuaded men in town to see if Jesus might be the Messiah (4:28–30)

The disciples tried to persuade Jesus to eat, but He told them that He had other food, to complete the Father's work (4:31–34)

Jesus told His disciples that harvest is now, not four months from now (4:35)

Jesus offered for them to join in the harvest that they might rejoice with the reaper (4:36)

Specifically, even though the disciples did not sow, Jesus will allow them to enter into the labors of others (4:37–38)

Many of the Samaritan men believed in Jesus because they perceived Him to be the Messiah when He told the woman her past (4:39)

The Samaritans asked Him to remain and He stayed two days (4:40)

Many more believed in Him because of His own word and they told the woman that Jesus' own word added to the content of their faith beyond what they believed from hearing the woman's testimony (4:41–42)

CONCLUSION