



## Message Study Guide

### Introduction

The four gospels of the New Testament is a series of episodes of confrontation between the gospel and what Jesus Christ actually said and what others believed. Many, if not most people in the New Testament had trouble accepting what Jesus said concerning any matter because most of the time it was diametrically opposed to what they had been taught and what they were practicing. Anytime there is a conflict in what we believe and what the Bible teaches, we must always be willing to humbly submit ourselves and change the direction of our lives to align with the direction of God's will and orderly way.

John 3 records a conflict between what Nicodemus believed and what Jesus said about eternal life. In essence, Jesus told him that if he didn't change the course he was presently on, he would not see the kingdom of God. In John 4, we see the same principle at work in the account of the Woman at the Well. When there was a conflict between their belief systems, Jesus demanded that she change her course immediately if she truly wanted the living water that He was offering. In John 8, in the account of the woman caught in the very act of adultery, Jesus demanded the same of everyone in the Temple that day. Without exception, everyone refused to change their course except the woman. When she obeyed the command to "go and sin no more", (change the direction of your life) her life was changed forever.

In today's message, we will take a closer look at the "Samaritan Woman" in John 4 to see another illustration of God's amazing grace being sovereignly given to an undeserving recipient.

### Discussion Points

Jesus was retreating from Judea to Galilee. Samaria lies almost exactly between the two. While Jews would never travel through Samaria to get to Galilee because of the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans, John 4:4 says that Jesus 'must needs go through Samaria'. God never lets anything stand in His way when He is about to dispense grace to an undeserving person.

### Discussion Questions

1. Explain what you believe to be the meaning of John 4:4, "He must needs go through Samaria".
2. What would be the difference between how Jesus would treat this woman and how the Pharisees would have treated her. See Luke 7:36-39 (Pharisees) and verses 40-50 (Jesus) for help with your answer.
3. When the disciples returned and saw Jesus sitting at the well having a conversation with this woman, John 4:27 says that they were amazed at what?
4. What do the words of Paul found in Galatians 3:26-29 reveal about this account in John 4?

### Think About It

There seemed to be no outward reason that Jesus would speak to this woman. They had nothing in common, and nothing to agree on. He's a Jew, she's a Samaritan, He's a man, and she's a woman. In spite of these differences, Jesus gets her attention not by telling her something she needs to know, but by asking for something He Himself needed from her - water. That would be the beginning of a conversation that would change her life forever.

### Do Something About It!

The above statement should be first and foremost in our minds when it comes to how we should share God's amazing grace with others. Although we may have little if anything in common with some people, the grace of God can change all that in a moment of time. Every opportunity to share our faith is an opportunity to witness grace being applied to those undeserving.

### Be Willing To Change

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).