

CCF Study Notes
Tuesday 7 AM Study
31 January 2006
John Chapter 4

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 4 let's spend some time in prayer, just worshipping God from our hearts, in spirit and in truth. Let's consider what it is that we have been thirsting for. How has Jesus been a fountain of water springing up in each of us? Have our lives been overflowing with blessing? Let's thank God for these things, no matter how insignificant they may seem at the moment. Let's ask God to help us to:

1. **Speak** truly with God;
2. **Perceive** the truth about Jesus,
3. **Move** past objections concerning matters of no consequence,
4. **Testify** freely and joyfully to what Jesus has done for us, and
5. **Believe** Jesus' authority enough to walk in blind faith.

Read through the fourth chapter of John's gospel and observe the structure there. I see four conversations tied together with three bits of narrative and one editorial comment. Is there a way to find a structure in this chapter based on the subject of the teachings? Are evangelism and teaching always distinct activities in Jesus' ministry?

It is important to follow trace the location as this chapter progresses. Where does Jesus start? Where does He finish this chapter? Why did Jesus make each move that is spoken of in this chapter? There is also a progression in the types of people Jesus is ministering to that starts in Chapter 3 and ends at the end of chapter 4. It parallels the journey Jesus was making. (Hint: What race was the nobleman of 4:46? Was he likely Jewish? Cf Acts 1:8) So was Jesus a missionary (a cross-cultural witness)?

Who initiated and guided the conversation at the well? What barriers existed between these two who met at the well? How were they overcome? Who brought up religious differences and why? Why was the woman so excited about the fact that "He told me all that I ever did!"? Did Jesus set an example that we should follow when dealing with unbelievers?

Jesus gives several reasons why differing forms of worship are of no real significance. Can you find four distinct reasons? Elaborate on these reasons and support them from other scriptures. What does this say about how we should worship God?

If we don't understand something about God who should we ask about it? Who should we direct other people to? What led the woman to talk about Messiah?

Has God's choice of company and servants ever left you aghast? If so, you're in good company (verse 27). What should we do when our sensitivities are wounded by something happening around the body of Christ? (Hint: Not what the disciples did... How is the disciples' response to Jesus the opposite of Jesus' response to the woman?) What happens when we pass judgment on others?

Why didn't Jesus eat with his disciples? How is "doing the will of the Father and finishing it" like eating food?

Grain, when it is overripe turns white. So how does Jesus answer those who might say "now isn't the time for evangelism" or "these aren't the people God wants me to talk to"? Jesus is making life very difficult for those of us who are given to procrastination. As baseball player turned evangelist Billy Sunday once said, "An excuse is a lie wrapped in the skin of a reason!" We always point to the excuses people make for not accepting Jesus. What's my excuse for not telling them about Jesus? I have none!

Who worked so those Apostles could reap a harvest? You would think that they got in on the ground floor. (Consider I Peter 1:10-12)

Exactly what was it that the Samaritans believed and how did they come to believe it?

Why the odd note contained in verse 44? (Where was the first sign given? Where was the second sign given?) Why did Jesus minister in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria before returning to Galilee? Why might God sometimes take us out of our familiar surroundings and use us elsewhere for a time? Should we worry when that happens to us?

The last portion of this chapter is the second of seven signs (see verse 54). What did the sign mean for those who saw it happen? Who benefited from this miracle? Was the nobleman likely Jewish? What kind of faith did the nobleman display? What kind of faith did the Galileans in general display? What is odd about Jesus' answer given in verse 51? What did Jesus have to offer both the Nobleman and the Woman at the Well? He offers the same to you and to me. And he has the authority to give it. Look at the whole concept of authority in the first 4 chapters of John. Why do we witness? (Matthew 28:18-20) Consider again the "living water" of John 4:10-15.

God's timing is perfect! Let's spend some time in quiet meditation and prayer, allowing God to apply the truths of John chapter 4 to our lives. Has God blessed us in a special way? Why not write a thank you note to God? Why not write a note to somebody else telling them what God has done for you? That's what the woman at the well did. That's what the nobleman did. How else would anybody know what had happened? How are people ever going to know what God has done in our midst?