

John 4:1-6 Jesus leaves Judea and goes to Galilee

Jhn 4:1 Therefore, when the Lord knew (**learned**) that the Pharisees (**religious leaders**) had heard (**been told**), that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

Correlation passage: The word traveled to the religious leaders became public, Jesus is baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist.

Jhn 3:26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He(**Jesus**) who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified--behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

Jhn 4:2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

John 4:1, says that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist.

Then John adds this clarification in verse 2: Jesus Himself did not personally perform the baptisms; His disciples did.

Notice something important: the parenthetical statement interrupts the flow of the narrative to clarify a detail that could otherwise be misunderstood.

Also it is entirely consistent to understand the clarification as written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel of John was written around AD 60–90? If the events of John 4 occurred around AD 27–31 that would mean John wrote about 40 plus years after the actual event

Jhn 4:3 He(**Jesus**) left Judea and departed (**returned**) again to Galilee.

Many commentators have suggested that Jesus wanted to avoid any possible trouble with John's disciples and the religious leaders Pharisee's so He left the area.

Jhn 4:4 But He(**Jesus**) needed (**Gk meaning: it was necessary or it must happen**) to go through Samaria.

Samaria was centrally located between Judea (**in the south**) and Galilee (**in the north**). The religious Jews and many others despised Samaritans because they were Jews who had intermarried with non-Jews and followed a heretical religion with false worship. Jewish travelers sometimes took a longer route through the Jordan Valley to avoid Samaria because of the longstanding hostility.

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith

The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians who took the people out of the land and repopulated them in other areas. However, they brought other people in to occupy the northern kingdom. But the people that had come to occupy the northern kingdom were being ravaged by wild animals and so they determined it's because they didn't know the customs of the gods of the people that occupied that territory before. So they brought some Jews back to teach these people concerning God. So that those in the northern kingdom were sort of considered by the Jews half-breeds. There came the inter-marriage and so forth and they were called the Samaritans and considered half-breeds by the Jews.

But because of the conflict between the Jews and the Samaritans, outright hostility, the Jews from the Galilee region coming to Jerusalem to worship God would do their best not to go through Samaria, but would go down to the Jordan river, cross the Jordan and come down on the opposite side of the Jordan river, and then re-cross it near Jericho and come up to Jerusalem for the various feasts. Going back to Galilee, they would go the same way. So to go through Samaria was unusual. The fact that it said, "He must needs go through Samaria," the only reason why He must needs would be to have a meeting with this woman of Samaria who was thirsty for living water.

We will see Jesus did not merely pass through Samaria. He entered a place many people would have avoided, spoke to someone others might have overlooked, and brought the message of eternal life, gospel to an entire community.

Jhn 4:5 So He(**Jesus**) came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground (**property**) that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Correlation passages:

Gen 33:19 And he(**Jacob**) bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

Jos 24:32 The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

City of Samaria

1Kings 16:24 And he (**King Omri of Israel**) bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill (**The name eventually referred to an entire district**)

Jhn 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied (**tired**) from His journey, sat (**down to rest**) thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour (**6pm Roman time or 12noon Jewish time calculated from 6am, then six hours**).

The Word became flesh (Jn 1:14, Phil 2, Heb 2 and 5), He also suffered from physical limitations in His humanity

John 4:7-30 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Jhn 4:7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

Water collectors were generally women and they generally came in groups, either earlier or later in the day to avoid the sun's heat. If the Samaritan woman alone came at 12:00 noon, this may indicate her public shame five husbands now living with a man which may have caused her to be isolated from others especially women gathering water for their families.

Jhn 4:8 (Jesus was alone at the time) For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food (meat and supplies).

Jhn 4:9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him(Jesus), "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Some religious Jews considered Samaritan women ceremonially unclean and generally religious leaders did not hold conversations with women, known by others for their sinning activities

Jesus is showing Gods love for mankind involves no boundaries, for Jesus lovingly and compassionately reached out to a woman who was a social outcast, unacceptable by the religious and customs, but apparently was a divine appointment.

Jhn 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God (eternal life), and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him (instead), and He would have given you living water (eternal life)."

Jesus used the woman's need for physical water to sustain life to serve as a lesson for her to know her spiritual needs, a spiritual transformation.

Rom 5:15 But the free gift (of God) is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense (Adam's sin) many died, much more (abundantly is) the grace of God and the gift (that comes) by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Isa 12:3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.

Isa 44:3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

Isa 55:1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Isa 55:3 Incline your ear (**listen**), and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live (you will find eternal life); And I will make an everlasting covenant with you--The sure mercies of David.

Eze 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit (**Holy Spirit**) and the bride (**the church, believers**) say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Jhn 4:11 The woman said to Him(**Jesus**), "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep (. Where then do You get that living water?

The woman's response was because "living water" was the normal description at that time for running water. She probably thought that Jesus was referring to the underground water source that fed the well.

Archeologist measured the depth in 19th century after clearing debris it was about 100 ft deep and 9 feet in diameter. It is near Shechem / Sychar in Samaria, at the foot of Mount Gerizim in the West Bank. The well today is generally agreed to be Tell Balatah or the Well of Jacob. The well was both dug out and fed by an underground spring.

Jhn 4:12 "Are You (**surely you're not**) greater than our father (**or ancestor**) Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jacob (**Israel**) was the son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham and father of the twelve sons who established the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jhn 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, "**Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,**

Jhn 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst (**again**). But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up (**satisfying their thirst for God**) **into everlasting life (eternal life)**."

Jhn 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jhn 6:58 "This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

Jhn 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

Jhn 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (**speaking of the Holy Spirit**)."

Jesus uses the deep, laborious physical well of Jacob to contrast temporary physical water with the "living water" of spiritual everlasting life

Jhn 4:15 The woman said to Him(**Jesus**), "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor (**continually**) come here to draw (**water**)."

Her mind was on physical needs not spiritual.

Jhn 6:33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Jhn 6:34 Then they(**disciples**) said to Him(**Jesus**), "Lord, give us this bread always."

Jhn 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You(**God**) have sent.

Jhn 3:16 "For God (**Father**) so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 4:16 Jesus said to her, "**Go, call (and get) your husband, and come here.**"

Jhn 4:17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "**You have well said, 'I have no husband,'**

Jhn 4:18 "**for you have had five husbands, and the one (man) whom you now have (and living with) is not your husband (you are not married); in that you spoke truly.**"

The Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus intimate knowledge only God knows, her sinful life and her focus needs to change to her spiritual condition.

God does not regard living together as marriage. Marriage is a binding, legal covenant between a man and a woman.

Jhn 4:19 The woman said to Him(**Jesus**), "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

Luk 7:15 So he (**young man**) who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He(**Jesus**) presented him to his mother.

Luk 7:16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

Luk 24:19 And He (**Jesus**) said to them (**two men walking toward Emmaus**), "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

Jhn 4:20 (**Samaritans say**) "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain (**Mount Gerizim**), and you Jews say that in Jerusalem (**at the temple**) is the place where one ought to worship."

Jhn 4:21 Jesus said to her, "**Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming (when God's kingdom comes) when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.**

Jhn 4:22 "**You (Samaritans) worship what you do not know; we (Jews) know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews (through a Jew).**

Jhn 4:23 "**But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father "in spirit and truth"; for the Father is seeking such (people) to worship Him.**

Jhn 4:24 "**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

The Samaritan woman had just asked Jesus whether people should worship on Mount Gerizim (where the Samaritans built a temple) or in Jerusalem (where the Jewish temple stood). Jesus essentially answers: Neither, why because God is a Spirit, so true worship is not about where you are standing, but the posture of your heart and the regeneration of your spirit by the Holy Spirit. To worship "in spirit" means your worship is driven by the Holy Spirit working in your spirit, not simply by external things, feelings and locations.

"and truth" True worship must aligns perfectly with the reality of who God is, as revealed in the truth of scripture. The Samaritans rejected most of the Old Testament scriptures therefore they did not know or understand accurately the true and living God. Worship must be anchored in biblical truth.

The Samaritans did not know God. They did not have the full revelation of the Truth, and thus could not worship the true and living God, which they did not know?

Phl 3:3 (**Paul rights**) For we (**born again believers, spiritual transformed**) are the (**real**) circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the (**works of the**) flesh,

God is spirit the Source of all life

Worship Comparison: Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

Feature	Old Covenant Worship (External)	New Covenant Worship (Spirit and Truth)
Primary Location	Geographic • Restricted to physical places like Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim [John 4:20–21]. Scripture: Deuteronomy 12:5 (God commands Israel to seek a specific place to establish His name), 1 Kings 8:29 (Solomon dedicates the temple as the physical focus of God's presence)	Spiritual • Not tied to a physical building; the believer's body is the temple. Scripture: John 4:21–23 (Jesus declares a time is coming when worship won't be tied to a mountain), 1 Corinthians 6:19 (Paul reveals that the indwelling Holy Spirit makes the believer a living temple) 1Pet 2:5 (living stones, being built up as a spiritual house to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ)
Access to God	Mediated • Offered through a human high priest behind a physical veil. Scripture: Leviticus 16:1–2 (God warns that entering the Holy of Holies carries a penalty of death), Hebrews 9:7 (Only the High Priest enters the inner room once a year with blood)	Direct • Bold access to the Father through Jesus Christ anytime, anywhere. Scripture: Hebrews 4:14–16 (Believers can confidently approach the throne of grace through Jesus), Hebrews 10:19–22 (We have open entry into the Holy Places by the blood of Christ)
Focus of Rituals	External Shadows • Animal sacrifices, physical washings, and dietary laws. Scripture: Hebrews 9:10 (Old rituals dealt only with food, drink, and external washings), Hebrews 10:1–4 (Animal blood serves as a yearly reminder of sin but cannot fully delete sin only cover it)	Internal Reality • Spiritual sacrifices of praise, a renewed mind, and total life devotion. Scripture: Romans 12:1 (Presenting your physical body as a living sacrifice which is true spiritual worship), Hebrews 13:15 (The new sacrifice is praise and fruit from lips that confess His name)
Source of Power	Human Effort • Strictly following written laws, external commands, and checklists. Scripture: Romans 7:6 (The old way relied on the literal, outward written code), Hebrews 7:16 (The old priesthood was built strictly on a legal requirement of physical descent)	The Holy Spirit • Driven by an inward transformation and a regenerated heart. Scripture: John 4:23–24 (True worshipers must worship in spirit), Ezekiel 36:26–27 (God promises to put His Spirit inside us to cause us to walk in His ways)
Basis of Truth	Incomplete Revelation • Typology, symbols, and prophetic shadows of what was to come. Scripture: Colossians 2:16–17 (Festivals and Sabbaths were merely a shadow of things to come), Hebrews 1:1 (God spoke in ancient times in fragments and various symbolic ways)	Full Revelation • Grounded in the finished work and explicit teaching of Jesus. Scripture: Col 2:17 (OT shadows of things to come, but the substance is of Christ) John 1:17 (The law came through Moses, but grace and absolute truth came through Christ), Hebrews 1:2 (In these final days, God has spoken completely through His Son) Jhn 14:6 (Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me)

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith

God is a superior trinity—Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Man is an inferior trinity—body, soul and spirit. It is in the realm of the spirit that man meets God. His Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are the sons of God. And it is only in the realm of the spirit that you can know God, that you can truly worship God, that you can have a relationship with God. It's a spiritual relationship and that you can't have until your spirit is alive, born again. And of course, the process by which that happens, Jesus said, is by believing in Him. The moment you believe in Jesus Christ, your spirit is born again and you come into an understanding of spiritual things. "No man understands the things of the Spirit save he who is born of the Spirit". The natural man doesn't understand them, he can't know them. They are spiritually discerned. You have to have the spiritual birth.

The Jews were waiting for the Messiah to come. They knew the scriptures well enough that they knew that it was about time for the Messiah to come. And many of the rabbis wrote about it you can look up quotations of the rabbis.

But the Jews had a wrong idea concerning the coming of the Messiah. They knew that there were scriptures that spoke of the Messiah's death, His suffering. His being despised and rejected. But they spiritualize those scriptures because there were other scriptures that spoke of the Messiah's glorious reign. That appealed to them. You remember Paul the apostle said, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." And we all say, Yes! Power, I want it. But then Paul said, "and the fellowship of his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10). And that's where we back up. Oh, no, no, no, just the power, that's all I want. And so the Jews were looking for the power. The overthrow of the Roman government. They were looking for a militant Messiah to lead them in the conquest of the world.

Jhn 4:25 The woman said to Him(**Jesus**), "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ), (**Title spoken in three different languages Hebrew Messiah; Greek Christos; and English Christ or Anointed One, a specific person consecrated, chosen, and set apart by God for a specific divine purpose.**). "When He comes, He will tell us all things (**we need to know**)."

Jhn 4:26 Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He (I Am the Christ that is to come).**"

Correlation passages:

Mat 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him (**high priest**), "It is as you said (**yes I Am He**). Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Jhn 4:27 And at this point His disciples came (**back**), and they marveled (**were surprised, shocked**) that He(**Jesus**) talked with a woman; yet no one said (**this tells us what they were thinking, but said nothing**), "What do You seek? (**What do you want with her?**)" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

Jhn 4:28 The woman then left her water pot (**by the well**), went her way into the city, and said to the men (**people**) (**Gk. all mankind, basically anyone who would listen**),

Jhn 4:29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ (**Messiah**)?"

Jesus had such an impact on the Samaritan woman that she was eager to share the news. Her witness brought people to Jesus.

Jhn 4:30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him (**they made their way toward Jesus**).

End