

As you read...

Water. It's crucial for every living thing on earth. Plants need it, animals need, we need it in order to survive. While in theory humans could go without food for up to three weeks, we would only survive about three to four days without water.

Here in John 4, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at a well drawing water. It's here that Jesus speaks to her about what He refers to as a "living water" that, if consumed, will cause someone to never become thirsty again. This living water would never run dry. Here's the thing about this living water: Jesus makes it abundantly clear that this living water comes from Him and Him alone.

We started this journey wondering what it means to *have life*. Here we get one of our first glimpses of what Jesus means by that phrase.

To *have* life is to be thriving, flourishing, and rejuvenating constantly. Who wouldn't want to drink in that kind of powerful living water? That's exactly Jesus' point. That's exactly why Jesus came in the first place: that we—that *you*—would have life.

God's desire for you in Jesus is that you would not only find life but have it for eternity.

God so loved the world that He sent Jesus into this world to accomplish for us what we could not accomplish for ourselves: *life*. Jesus took on the weight of our sin, that spiritually dries us up and leaves us for dead, in order to give to us His living water that wells up inside of each of us both now and into eternity.

Read [John 4:1-42](#)

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

¹When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), ³ he left Judea and went again to Galilee. ⁴ He had to travel through Samaria; ⁵ so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

“Give me a drink,” Jesus said to her, ⁸ because his disciples had gone into town to buy food.

⁹“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

*¹⁰Jesus answered, “If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would ask him, and he would give you **living** water.”*

*¹¹“Sir,” said the woman, “you don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this **living** water?” ¹² You*

aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

*¹³ Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal **life**."*

¹⁵ "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

¹⁶ "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here."

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. ¹⁸ "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes,

the Father wants such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Jesus told her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

The Ripened Harvest

²⁷ Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to him.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples kept urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³² But he said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

³³ The disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?”

³⁴ “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,” Jesus told them. ³⁵ “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four

*more months, and then comes the harvest'? Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal **life**, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you didn't labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor."*

The Savior of the World

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of what he said. ⁴² And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."

Questions

1. Notice what gives both the Samaritan woman and the other Samaritans confidence in Jesus there in verses 39-41: hearing from Jesus Himself. What about Jesus' words do you think gave them such confidence to believe so firmly and quickly?

2. The Samaritan woman became very excited about the living water that Jesus told her about. Why do you think that living water was so appealing for her? Why would it have been appealing for you if you were her?
3. Both the Samaritan woman and the other Samaritans found great joy in living water that came from following Jesus. How about you? Is your life right now more about searching for that living water or are you thriving in it?
 - If you're searching for it, think of someone who you believe is thriving in it. Send them a text or stop them in person to say that you'd like to talk to them more about their faith life and follow through with it.
 - If you're thriving in the living water that Jesus has for you, think of someone who might be struggling right now to see Jesus at work in their life. Pray for them, then reach out to them to see how they are doing and if there's anything you can be praying about for them today.

A moment to pray.

Loving Father, thank you for pouring into my life the living water of Your Son, Jesus. Help me to long for the life you have for me every day and to seek it with everything that I have. Give me confidence to reach out to those you have placed on my heart that we both my grow closer to you in the process. In Jesus' name. Amen.