



# VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH SUGAR GROVE CAMPUS

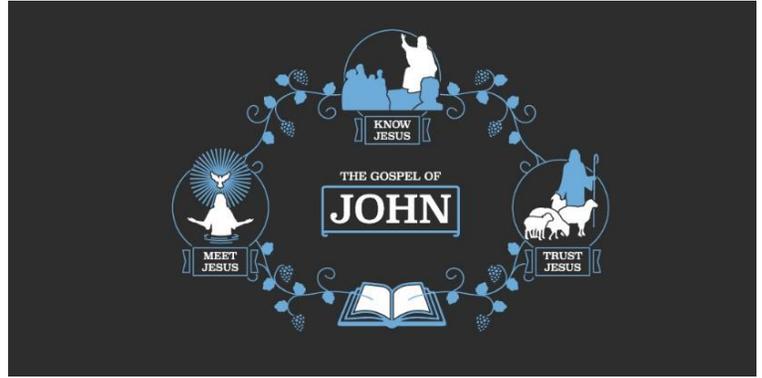
## Jesus is the Savior of the World

### The Gospel of John

#### John 4:1–42

Philip Chapman | October 17, 2021

We are continuing in our sermon series on the book of John, still in Jesus' first year of earthly ministry. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, John has explained to us that the whole purpose of this book is about believing in Jesus. In fact, John 20:31 says, *"...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* In fact, all 66 books of Scripture point toward the Messiah, Jesus Christ. They're all talking about Jesus. John 14:6 says it very well: *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*



In this particular story, we see that Jesus, along with His disciples, are going to move north into the region called Samaria. At that time, He is going to find Himself at a well where there is a woman at the same time. This is going to be a conversation encounter that took place in the most unlikely location during the most unlikely time with the most unlikely company. For the woman, it was going to be a day just like any other day. She was from a town called Sychar and was just coming to get water. Very similar to the Jewish apostles, she would understand or at least have working knowledge of the first five books of the Old Testament. But she worshipped, served and had faith completely different than the apostles.

This particular woman had quite a story. She had five husband and five divorces. She was living with another man at this point. Since she was coming at high noon, we can assume that she had decided to not go with the other women. As tradition had it, the women would go to the well together early in the morning, then again around dusk together to draw the water. It was a social event. However this woman either decided not to go with them or she was being shunned, so that's why she was going at high noon when the sun would be the hottest. This woman had one watering jug with her. We don't know why she didn't have multiple jugs. In third world countries, you see a lot of women carrying at least two jugs. She only had one; maybe she just needed it for that particular day. She was at this particular well at this particular time for this particular conversation.

When we look back to John 3, we see Nicodemus, who had been watching Jesus from afar. He was a very smart man and knew Scripture forwards and backwards. He watched Jesus' miracles happening. He saw Jesus and snuck away from his friends so he could have a one-on-one conversation with Him. This woman at the well was completely opposite of Nicodemus. She came at high noon; she didn't know Who Jesus was. She had never heard of Him. She had never seen any miracles. She didn't care about Jesus; she just wanted to do what she needed to do and get back to her home.

Maybe that's you. Maybe you don't know Jesus and just want me to stop so you can get on with your life. However, just like Nicodemus, this woman's individual connection with the Savior of the world would change her eternity. I love that Jesus does that. I love that Jesus cares about each of us so much that He's willing to have one-on-one conversations with us. He doesn't care what our rank is, what our title is, where we're from or what we've done. He wants to love us right in our spot, right now. You're here today, worshipping together corporately, singing songs, hearing the Word of God, but Jesus wants to have a one-on-one conversation with you. He wants to talk to you. It's great to commune with the great I AM.

If you haven't already, please turn in your Bible to the Gospel of John and the fourth chapter.

Let's read John 4:1-6:

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there...

## We can rejoice...

### That God is sovereign.

Our first point today is that we can rejoice that God is sovereign. Do you believe that God is sovereign? That He is all-knowing? I have come to the conclusion that I don't truly believe that at times. You see, I find myself manipulating life's circumstances to try to meet my perceived needs—financially, physically, mentally, relationally. I try to maneuver things around. Can I truly declare what Isaiah 8:17 says, *"I will wait for the Lord...I will hope in Him."* Can I trust in God's sovereignty. Frankly, can I humble myself before God, demonstrating that I really, really trust in His sovereignty?

Friends, Jesus is in charge of all circumstances. We see that today in this story. There are so many things that had to happen. Jesus had to leave at the exact right time. He walked about 20 miles to make this happen. Jesus had to take the right path in order to get to that well. He had to send His disciples to go get food, so they weren't there to scare the woman off. He knew the woman was walking there at that exact time and when she would arrive. He worked out all those details. Jesus is sovereign and His timing is absolutely perfect.

### That the Almighty sent His Son.

The second thing we need to rejoice about is that God sent His Son. John 4:6, tells us that Jacob's well was there so *"Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour."* I love that John includes this stuff. I love that he gives us all these details to help us understand Jesus' humanity. You see, Jesus was weary. He was exhausted. He was tired. This is a huge thing for us to understand. The Creator of all things, Who created everything in six days, was tired on this long, hot day. Jesus had nearly 20 miles in at that time, according to best guesses, yet He was going to take time to focus on someone else. I love that Jesus isn't like me.

You see, the author, John, is giving us an excellent view of Jesus' humanity, which is super important for us to understand from the Gospel story. Jesus was fully God and fully man at the exact same time.

- Luke 2 tells us that Jesus was born a baby.
- John 19, just like here in John 4, tells us that Jesus was thirsty.
- Matthew 8 refers to the human emotion of Jesus when He was marveling at all the things.
- Matthew 4 tells us that Jesus got hungry.
- In John 11, Jesus cried. Yes, the Creator of the world, the omnipotent One, the omniscient One, the King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Simply put, the love of God that He showed us by sending His Son Jesus to live as fully man and fully God at the same time is amazing. Jesus experienced joy, pain, sorrow, just like you and I have. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus.

God loved this woman so much that He sent Jesus to be with her that particular day. God loves you too. God loves you and maybe today is the day that you need to hear this. Maybe you think no one loves you, but I'm telling you, God loves you. We serve a sovereign God and we should rejoice that the Almighty sent His Son Jesus.

### That Jesus came to save sinners.

We can also rejoice that Jesus came to save sinners.

- 1 Timothy 1:15 says, *"...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."*
- Matthew 9:13 says I, *"For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*
- Luke 19:10 says, *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

In our study today, we see that this woman was a sinner. We don't know all the details of all the things that were going on in her life; we don't get those details and it doesn't matter. That woman is just like you and me. Romans 3:23 says, *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* No matter who you are, Jew, Gentile, wherever you're from, He came to save you.

Think of this woman at the well. Jesus wanted to be with her. Jesus wanted to talk to her. Jesus wanted to share this great news with her. Jesus wanted to offer her eternity. That's what we should be rejoicing in because it doesn't matter what we've done. It doesn't

matter what our past is. What matters is right this moment. Jesus is here; He stands at the door and He knocks (Revelation 3:20). If anyone hears His voice and welcomes Him in, He will come in. All you have to do is ask. That's for anyone.

My lovely wife, Sherry, is a senior in college right now, getting her degree in social work. A couple semesters ago, she took a class in comparative religions. In that class, they were talking about different religions and the professor talked about Christianity as being an exclusive religion because it doesn't allow just anyone in. It's just so closed minded, but all these other religions are inclusive, welcoming everybody. After some chatter and bias toward one direction, Sherry raised her hand and asked some interesting follow-up questions. Then the guy right next to her gained some courage and said, "Sir, I agree with you. I understand that John 14:6 says, *'Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*' Jesus is the only way; Christianity is exclusive."

Scripture also teaches us that all can come. All are welcome. Matthew 11:28 says, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* All. Are you weary today? Are you heavy laden? Do you have all kinds of stuff on your mind? Do you have all kinds of things going on? Sick people, injured, sad, broken. For all these different things and more, Jesus says, "Come to Me." That's what the woman was experiencing. She may have had a ton on her mind. She may have had a lot of guilt, but Jesus loved her so much.

We serve a sovereign God, friends. A God Who loves us so much that He came into this world to save us from our sin.

### **That nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.**

We can also rejoice that there is nothing that can separate from the love that Jesus shows us. Nothing.

John 4:7-10:

<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

You see, when He was asking this woman for a drink, He was literally saying, "Let me borrow your utensil and take a drink out of that." She knew He was a Jew, maybe by His accent or His looks. There's no Jew who would ever drink from somebody else's jug, let alone a Samaritan and a woman.

Here's a little history lesson. In 722 B.C., the Assyrians attacked northern Israel, which would have been referred to as the region of Samaria and had been the capital. It was kind of spread out. They attacked it, deported all the Israelites except for a handful of them. They intermarried, then they started referring to them as half-breeds. No good Jew would ever mingle with a Samaritan. In fact, Scripture says that He had to go north into Samaria in order to get to His next location. Most Jews would have gone east, then north to avoid going into this area. But not Jesus.

This reminds me of historical things that we all have heard and dealt with, even on American soil, like slavery or segregation. How we think of the Nazis and Hitler, and everything before and after and in between. We have seen how one nation can go against another nation. One religion against another religion. One race against another race. One gender against another gender. That's school's better; that school is worse. That church is horrible; that church is good. We may even say, "That side of town is good; this side of town is bad." This is because we feel there's a superior complex about things that have been conquered. But you know what? The truth remains that no matter where you are from, no matter what your background is, no matter what language you speak, no matter where you are in this world, no matter what your house looks like or how much money you have or don't have, no matter how tall you are or how short you are, no matter how fat you are or how skinny you are, or even if you smell, Jesus Christ loves you. Jesus Christ is asking you to come, "Invite Me in. Just invite Me in. I'm here."

Romans 8:38-39 says, *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Just because this was a Samaritan, just because this was a woman, nothing was going to separate Jesus from having this conversation and offering her eternity. Tradition has zero power with Jesus; none. Friends, you and I make too many excuses. You and I who love Jesus Christ make too many excuses about why we are not sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. "Those are Mormons; I can't talk to them." "My brother's an atheist; I can't talk to him. He doesn't want to talk about religion. It's just going to be a bad conversation." You know who we talk to about Jesus? Other people who know and love Jesus. They already know Jesus.

### **That salvation is a gift of God.**

The fifth thing we can rejoice in is that salvation is a gift from God. John 10:4: *"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'* The woman said to him, *'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'"* That's very similar to Nicodemus' response: "How can a person be born again? How can he return to his mother's womb? What do you mean destroy this temple and

rebuild it in three days? What are you talking about?" Over and over, we see that people have no understanding of what Jesus is actually saying.

Let's continue in this passage:

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

I don't know how long this conversation lasted, but I do know that the key to all this woman's issues, the key to everything she was seeking, the key to all of her questions, the key to her eternity was sitting right in front of her. All she had to do was ask. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." The woman at the well was just like any other person before they knew Jesus. She was blind to the fact that she didn't know Jesus.

Friends, we don't know what we don't know when we don't know it. Are you following me here? This woman didn't know Jesus before this moment in time, but she did know that she was feeling empty. There was something missing from her heart. There was some piece of her life that she kept trying to fill from all the wrong places, all the wrong things, all the wrong men. She was blind to her need of Jesus.

Maybe that's you. Maybe you try to fill your life with all kinds of stuff. I was talking with someone the other day about Jeff Bazos and his faith. I don't know Jeff Bazos and don't know anything about his regular life; I just know he owns Amazon he has a few dollars. Perhaps he is struggling in life with something and needs to fill that hole as well. He probably just drops a million dollars on something to fill that gap. "Ah, I feel good now." Then three or four days later, he starts feeling empty again. He tries filling it again, buying, doing, flying, whatever it might be. Then I thought about us and what we do. Maybe it's drinking something, smoking something, buying something from Jeff Bazos. Whatever it might be, we keep trying to fill that hole with other stuff when there is Someone with whom we can fill it—Jesus Christ.

This woman didn't want to carry her jar up and down the hill, back and forth, the rest of her life. She wanted rest from that. The amazing part of salvation is that God will lead the blind to light. Isaiah 42:16 says, "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them" (NIV). We go to Psalm 146:8 and read, "The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous." In this conversation beside the well, Jesus is about to give this lady sight.

Maybe you're here and you've been blind and haven't even known about Jesus. Or maybe you just keep coming over and over and over, because it's a great thing to check off your to-do list: "I went to church. I went to that. I went to this. I did this. I served this way." Maybe you're blind and really don't know the love of Jesus Christ. Today may be your time at the well. Jesus loves you.

Friends, we serve a sovereign God Who has existed from the beginning of time and Who knows everything. While you and I were still sinners, the Almighty sent His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to us so that by His perfect life, death, resurrection and ascension we can have eternal life. We can be forgiven. We can rejoice over the fact that no matter who we are, Christ loves us. No matter what we've done, Christ loves us. His salvation is available for anyone. That's the truth that this woman heard on that very day.

However, something needs to happen once you hear that truth. Maybe your eyes have been opened and maybe this is you today. So something needs to happen. What are the next steps?

## Some final thoughts

### We need to humble ourselves before Jesus.

There's a part in John 4 where Jesus calls the woman out for her sin, then in verse 18 we see that she starts admitting her sin. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That's judicial forgiveness. That means at the moment in time when you give your life to Jesus Christ, when you ask Him to come in, He forgives you. He's been knocking and now you're going to ask Him (Revelation 3:20). Your eyes have been opened. All the sins you've ever done are forgiven, even if you murdered somebody, you hated people, you stole stuff, you were a prostitute, you lived a life of filth. It doesn't matter at that moment in time; you are completely forgiven of all the things you did before. Not only at that moment, but you're also already forgiven of all the things you're going to do in the future. That's judicial forgiveness. So this woman, when she was confessing everything, was forgiven everything.

Jesus reminds us that on the cross He said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). But it's not finished for us to only have relational forgiveness. You see, He told this woman, and later talked to the people at Sychar, that we need to keep having times when we confess to Jesus, when we come to Him to build our relationship back and forth.

As you might know, my wife and I have ten children. We have three biological daughters, four foster daughters and three adopted sons—Jacob, Reggie and Jose. These three sons will always be my sons and I have birth certificates that prove it. Sherry's name and my name are on each of those birth certificates. If one of those boys starts disregarding me, starts disobeying, starts doing whatever he wants to do, it is his job at that point to come to me and seek forgiveness. And I will be like the prodigal son's father and will run out to him, embrace him and love him (Luke 15:11-32). Our Lord wants us to come to Him and lay our sins at His feet on a continuous basis, saying, "I am so sorry." Every single time, He will say, "I love you." He knows your heart. He knows exactly why you're coming and humbling yourself before Him.

King David realized this and said in Psalm 32:3, "When I kept silent, my body was wasting away. My bones were literally becoming nothing." He knew he needed to keep coming to God, to keep confessing his sins. Not for salvation, but for relationship with Jesus. After we've come to know Jesus through confession, we need to humble ourselves before Him on an on-going basis.

### **We need to freely share our story.**

Then friends, we need to freely share our story with everybody. You see, after some discussion with this woman and realizing that He is the great I Am, she leaves her jug and takes off. We see this in verses 28-29: "*So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?'*" She was wondering, "Can this be the Messiah?" Then according to verse 30: "*They went out of the town and were coming to him.*" Verse 39 tells us, "*Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.'*"

Matthew 28:19 clearly says to us: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*" We don't have to throw out heavy theological stuff to people. Just share your story: "Hey, this is what was going on in my life when I was lost. Then I found Jesus Who went to the cross and forgave my sins. This is my life now. It's hard, but this is my story." Share it with everybody.

### **We need to heed the words of God.**

First Peter 2:2 says, "*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation...*" In John 4:40, we see that Jesus stayed with the Samaritans for two days. Man, those 48 hours had to be fantastic! As they heard Jesus near the end of His stay, the people proclaimed to the woman in the following verse, "*It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.*"

Second Timothy 3:16 reminds us that all Scripture is breathed out by God; all Scripture is profitable. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" We should crave God's Word. We should desire to grow in our salvation as we seek to be men and women who are serving the King of kings. We should not keep this treasure to ourselves. It's a treasure; share it because you have an abundance. That's why we read the Word, friends. That's why we study the Word. That's why we trust the Word.

The woman at the well was changed this very day. Her life was affected because she heeded the words of Jesus. Maybe you have known Jesus for 40 years, but are you heeding His Word on an on-going basis? Are you listening to His Word, studying it and reading it because you want to be a warrior for Him? Because you want to be an ambassador to carry His message? Are you focusing in on yourself or others?

### **We need to focus on the Savior of the world.**

Are you thirsty? I am. I literally and legitimately am thirsty. Ice-cold water—ah, that's good. I've become a snob with the kind of water I put in my bottle. This water stays cold for quite a while, but eventually it warms up. The other day, I forgot to drink this one and used another bottle somewhere else, then came back to this one and it was room temperature. Ugh! Once this is empty, I have to refill it. Then sometimes, because I'm a water snob, that specific type of water isn't waiting for me in my frig, so I have to fill it from the faucet. Ugh!

We seek satisfaction in all kinds of things in life and keep seeking it over and over and over again. We keep going to the internet for that same exact thing. We keep calling up that one friend to meet us at that same location. We keep going to that same website to order that same type of stuff. We keep doing those things over and over and over because we're trying to satisfy this thirst, but we understand from Scripture that we know Someone Who could give us something so we will never thirst. So we'll never hunger again. If you have Jesus in your life, if you know Jesus as your Savior, He fulfills everything you need. Not your spouse. Not your kids. Not sports. Not money. No matter what your situation is, Jesus is the One Whom you should be focused on, because He will help you quench that thirst.