

John 4

Will of the Spirit vs the will of the flesh.
We cannot comprehend the will of the Spirit.

Our life comes from the flesh.
An environment that can sustain life.

They wanted the environment purged.
The prophets prophesied of that.
But God didn't take away the serpents, he changed them.

Miracles about transforming the physical order.

Verses 1-3

John 4:1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,
2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)
3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

Not the ultimate baptism.
So his disciples can perform it.

Jesus's ministry surpassed John's.
Jesus is giving the Pharisees every benefit, every opportunity to respond.
No delegation?

So he leaves the area. They've had their chance.

Jesus is teaching that the temple system can't save them.
Law concepts like carnal washings (baptism).
They don't just need a holy environment, but an internal transformation after God's Spirit.
And they are stuck on the status quo.

Verse 4

John 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

Samaria between Judaea and Galilee.

Samaria had been the capital of the northern kingdom.
Left the temple system ordained by God.

Verse 5

John 4:5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Ephraim.

Verse 6

John 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

Midday.

Verses 7-8

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

Verse 9

John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Don't maintain ceremonial cleanliness.

Don't keep the commandments.

Historical enemies.

Verse 10

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

"I'm not interested in your petty squabbles."

"In fact, if you knew who I was, you'd be asking me for living water."

Jesus has just cast off the cultural norms.

He's tossed aside the fact that they don't worship God acceptably.

Because a kingdom is coming that no religious system can prepare you for.

Verse 11

John 4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

What kind of water are you talking about?
You don't have anything to draw physical water with.
Similar to conversation with Nicodemus.

Verse 12

John 4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

So you're making yourself somebody who is going to transcend Jew and Samaritan.
Somebody who is going to give us a new well, just like Jacob gave us this one.
That both Jew and Samaritan drink from.

Who are you saying you are? Are you greater than Jacob?

Verse 13

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

He says, "You're right that I can't give you physical water."
"That wouldn't do you any good anyway."

You can already get this water.

Verse 14

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Jesus is talking about a different kind of water.
A water that makes a well within you.
So that you only need to drink once.

Same thing he was talking to Nicodemus about.
Receiving everlasting life through the Spirit.
Being born, not of water, but of the Spirit, and receiving everlasting life.

Used a different analogy, because Nicodemus understood the OT.

Verse 15

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

So she says, "All right then, I'll call your bluff."

She wants her physical needs met.

Verse 16

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

Jesus is doing two things here.

Here is respecting the spiritual hierarchy ordained by God.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

A man doesn't go directly to God. The only way is through Christ.

And a woman doesn't go directly to Christ.

If this woman wants to come into that proper relationship, she must do so under the headship of her husband.

But it is also a gotcha to expose the sinfulness of her flesh.

Does she really want to live for ever like this?

Does she really think she can come to God, like that?

Verses 17-18

John 4:17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

That's kind of embarrassing.

Verse 19

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

Convinces her that Jesus is a prophet.

Gives her some perspective on what he is talking about here.

Verse 20

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

She's pretty spunky.

"How come you're being a prophet to me?"
We believe in two different systems of worship.

Verse 21

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Neither of these are the ultimate thing.

Verse 22

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

He does still make it clear that there is a difference.
One was true religion the other was false.
One can lead you to salvation.

Verse 23

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Those systems are going to, and now is the time, pass away.
And instead of religion, true worshippers will worship in spirit and in truth.

Before true worshippers worshipped in the temple.

Spirit and truth; he is full of grace and truth.
They'd received of his fullness.

Grace of God ultimately comes not to our flesh, but our spirit.

The Father seeks such to worship him.
Why?

Verse 24

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Same thing he was trying to tell Nicodemus.
It is the kingdom of God.

You need the waters of life.

Verse 25

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

Like the Jews they are looking for something to come.
And Jesus is telling them that they need to be spiritually prepared.
They're religion isn't going to prepare them.

So she believes that the Messiah is coming.
And when he comes he will tell them all things.
They'll finally know the way to God.

Verse 26

John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

"That's me."
"Isn't that what I'm doing?"

That is indeed what he came to be.
The Word. Light.

She had a better understanding than the Pharisees.
She knew that their worship system was inadequate. It was in ignorance.

Verse 27

John 4:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

They were surprised just like she was.

Verses 28-29

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

She believed.
How?
She heard the word.
But like Nicodemus she also had confirmation that he was a prophet.

So she left her waterspout there, forgot all about this earthly water.

She comes and tells the men of the city.
Probably sitting in the gate of the city.
That surely got their attention.

Verse 30

John 4:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

Got their attention.

Verses 31-32

John 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.
32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Remember, this was midday. They were tired and hungry.
But suddenly Jesus isn't tired and hungry anymore.

Just like the woman got a different kind of water to drink.

He's putting the spiritual above the physical, the spirit above the flesh.

Verse 33

John 4:33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

But the disciples still don't fully understand this.

Verse 34

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jesus has a hunger to do the will of God, that is stronger than his fleshly hunger.

Verse 35

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Passover in the first month.

Heads of grain turn white when ripe.

He's explaining to the disciples that his ministry has reached the next stage.
Done baptizing, the Pharisees had their chance.
The harvest is ready.

Verse 36

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

So Jesus says they'll receive wages when they reap.
He's receiving wages (meat to eat that they know not of).

A harvest of fruit unto life eternal.

And so both sowers and reapers can rejoice together.

Verses 37-38

John 4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.
38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

John and his disciples labored.
And other men.

And now they have been reaping the fruit that others had sown.

So this is their mission now.
The harvest is ready, they need to be reaping.

Verse 39

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

Many believed when they heard that he had prophetic ability.
They believed her witness that he was the Christ.

Verse 40

John 4:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

So they invited him to stay in their city.
He was just traveling through.
But he said "we've got to reap here, because this field is ready."

Verse 41

John 4:41 And many more believed because of his own word;

And so he did what? Many miracles?
No, he spoke to them.
And many more believed.

Verse 42

John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

They didn't trust the woman.
But they heard him, and were convinced by what he said.
Not because he had done that miracle, revealing prophetic insight.
But because he spoke the truth.

In other words, the word touched their hearts.
It convinced them, just by what he said, that he was the Christ, and the Savior of the world.

Not just the Savior of the Jews. But Samaritans, and the whole world.

The Jews would only believe based on miracles.
The rulers of the Jews asked for a sign.
The Pharisees mostly wouldn't receive his testimony. Beside Nicodemus.
But the Samaritans believed his word.
Just like the disciples did.

They believed that their religious system couldn't save them.
But this man would save the whole world.
He would give us a new well of the water of life that would spring up inside of us.
He would save us spiritually.

So they heard, and believed.

Verse 43

John 4:43 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

And that was after just a two day ministry.

Then he continued on to Galilee.
So how will they respond?
The Jews believed only on miracles. But the Samaritans believed his word. What about the Galileans?

Verse 44

John 4:44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

So Jesus already knew and told what would happen.

Verse 45

John 4:45 Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

But they received him!

But based on what? (having seen all things...)

Verse 46-48

John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

So here is this man from a neighbor city whose son is dying.
And he wants Jesus to heal him.

But Jesus just tells him outright that they will only believe what they see.

As if he's not interested in healing anybody there.
That's only going to exacerbate things.

Seems kind of inconsiderate.

But if they won't accept spiritual healing, then physical healing won't do them any good.

Verse 49

John 4:49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

"I don't know about that, but I know my kid is going to die if you don't heal him."

This is a desperate father, and Jesus is his only hope.

Verse 50

John 4:50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

Jesus was in a tough spot, he couldn't just let this child die.
But he forces the father to believe the word instead of what he sees.

And he did.

Verse 51

John 4:51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

Can't prove Jesus did it.

Jesus has demonstrated that his word is powerful. That it saves from death.

Verse 54

John 4:54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

Two miracles of the word.
After leaving Judea.