

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #191

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 6: CHAPTER 4

1. Jesus and the Samaritan Women
2. Jesus and the Samaritans
3. Jesus heals a nobleman's son

PART ONE

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 Judea and departed again in to Galilee.
4. And He must needs go through Samaria.
5. Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph.
6. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat by the well; and it was about the sixth hour.
7. Then cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said unto her, **Give me to drink.**
8. For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy food.
9. Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
10. Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me a drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.**
11. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; from where, then, hast thou living water?
12. Art thou greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself and his sons and his cattle?
13. Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again;**
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.**

15. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come here to draw.
16. Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband and come here.**
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, that sadist thou truly.**
19. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.
20. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and ye say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
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.**
22. **Ye worship ye know not what. We know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews.**
23. **But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.**
24. **God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**
25. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh who is called Christ; when He is come, He will tell us all things.
26. Jesus saith unto her, **I that speak unto thee am He.**
27. And upon this came His disciples and marveled that He talked with the woman. Yet no man said, What seekest thou? Or, Why talkest thou with her?
28. The woman then left her waterpot and went her way into the city and saith unto the men,
29. Come, see a man, who told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?
30. Then they went out of the city and came unto Him.
31. In the meantime His disciples besought Him, saying, Master, eat.
32. But He said unto them, **I have food to eat that ye know not of.**
33. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him anything to eat?
34. Jesus saith unto them, **My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish His work.**
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.**

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.
37. And here is that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth.
38. I sent you to reap that on which ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors.

1-3

According to J. Vernon McGee, “It was in the month of December and probably near December 27. This was the time that John the Baptist was in prison. When John was imprisoned, Jesus left Judaea and went back into Galilee.”

4-Why do you think He went to Samaria? There were three ways to get back to Cana, where it seems the Lord was headed, so He could be in position to help a nobleman whose son was sick. According to Josephus, although the most direct route was through Samaria, the Jews did not go that way because of their hatred for the Samaritans. The Samaritans were a racial group formed by the intermarriage of the Jews who were left in Israel during the time of the exile and who married the foreigners who came in to possess the land that was conquered. When the Jews returned from the exile, the Samaritans wanted to be acknowledged as Jewish citizens. The Jews refused so the Samaritans hated the Jews and built their own Temple away from Jerusalem. They believed in the first five books of the Bible, the Pentatuch or Mosaic law, but did not follow the other Jewish sacred writings. The hatred between the Samaritans and the Jews became so intense that the Jews did all to avoid any interaction with Samaritans. The Samaritans, however, did believe in a coming Messiah, and many of the Samaritans became followers of Jesus.

5-6-According to Roman tradition, the sixth hour would be six in the afternoon. However, this was Jewish time, and thus the sixth hour would be twelve noon. In this passage, Jesus is showing His humanness as he was weary from walking so far.

7-This woman came to the well in the hottest part of the day probably because she knew there would be no other women there. Because of her life-style, she was probably shunned by the other women and probably did not want to talk with them. She brought her own leather bucket to the well. Since it was always the woman’s job to carry water, a man doing that job

would be unusual and thus quickly spotted. In the book of Mark, for example, Jesus told Peter and John to locate the room where the Last Supper would be by following a man carrying water, because He knew the man would stand out. In that day to ask for a drink of water and given a drink indicated that the guest was worthy of being peacefully received. The Samaritan woman found it incomprehensible that Jesus, a Jew, had asked for water when there was generally such hatred between Jews and Samaritans. This well was outside of village but would have been the “center” of village life for the women, who would have come in the cool of the day to draw water. Here the women met others from the village for conversation and relaxation at the beginning and the end of the day.

8-30

The fact that the disciples went into Samaria to buy food indicates that Jesus had rejected the Jewish opinion of the Samaritans but saw value in them. The Jews would have considered eating Samaritan food as bad as eating the flesh of swine. The Samaritans of that day were poor people. They would sell to Jews, but they, too, were prejudice and wouldn't drink from the same vessel with the Jews.

The role of a woman always appears to be subservient to men. She kept out of sight when visitors were present (Genesis 18:9), served the men in the family before eating herself, fetched the water, made the clothes, cooked the food, and walked while the men rode. But, because she was the one who could have children, she was not disrespected or unloved. If she was unfaithful to her husband, she was stoned. But, if the husband was unfaithful, the female he was unfaithful with became part of the family. In the New Testament, the wife was still to submit to the husband, but the husband was to love the wife as Christ loved the church and thus this was a kind of submission in itself. Husbands could have more than one wife, but one wife was the ideal since God had produced only one wife for Adam, and Paul expect church leaders of his day to conform to this pattern (1st Timothy 3:2).

This woman apparently had lived a life of immorality, and the implication is that she is in adultery, although that is not stated scripturally and some take great offense at that accusation. Perhaps she is not popular with the women in town because she is popular with the men. She starts off as rude and makes a racial distinction between them. The Lord, unlike His more blunt approach with Nicodemus, a man steeped in religion, answers this woman with kindness and compassion. She becomes curious as to who this

man is, and her attitude changes. She even addresses Him as “Sir.” She becomes thirsty for this water that the Lord is talking about.

The disciples just did not get it. They could not understand why a rabbi would be having an extended conversation with a woman in public. This was sharply looked down on.

In this passage of scripture, the Lord bluntly and unequivocally says, “I am the Messiah.”

This woman had come face to face with the Lord, and her encounter with Him changed her life. What does she immediately want to do? Go tell others the “Good News.” Notice, however, that she goes to the men because she is probably not on speaking terms with the women. The men came to see Jesus because of her witness. Who have you witnessed to about Jesus today?

31-38

This encounter took place in December. Harvest would have been in April. Jesus was, of course, talking about a spiritual harvest. At that time the laborers who planted and brought in the harvest wore white clothing, as they worked, probably because of the heat of the Middle East. The white was thus not referring to the unripe wheat fields, but to the people who were coming to see Him. These people dropped what they were doing and came to Jesus in their work clothes.

Jesus is also saying that the thing that really sustains Him is doing the will of the Father and that the time for harvest of souls is now. Finally, he tells us that some sow the seed and some reap the harvest, and both are equally important. Do what the Lord has called you to do so that you may rejoice when He comes.

PART TWO

39. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of this woman, who testified, He told me all that ever I did.
40. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them, and He abode there two days.
41. And many more believed because of His own word,
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 Savior of the world.
43. Now after two days He departed from there and went into Galilee.
44. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet hath no honor in his own country.

45. Then, when He was come into Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did at Jerusalem at the feast; for they also went unto the feast.

39-45

One woman with a shady past who was really an outcast encountered Jesus and was totally changed and able to reach a village. The only requirement Jesus gave was to *thirst*. The Samaritans said, “Now we believe, not because of this woman saying He is the Messiah, but because we ourselves have heard Him.”

Many people miss the prophet’s reward, i.e. a direct word from the throne of God to an individual person, because they look too much at the vessel instead of looking to Jesus, the One who is speaking through the prophet.

PART THREE

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 Judea 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.**

49. The nobleman saith unto Him, Sir, come down before my child dieth.

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.

51. And as he was not 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 improve. 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 which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth; and he himself believeth and his whole house.

54. This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when He was come out of Judea into Galilee.

39-49

This was the first recorded healing miracle of Jesus and was only recorded by John. It is important in that it links the miraculous with

faith. It also shows that Jesus is just as capable of healing from a distance. The distance between Cana and Capernaum is about 20 miles.

An interesting side note to this healing is that some believe that the name of this nobleman was Chuza. Chuza was a Jew and held a very prominent position in Herod's household. He was married to Joanna—a woman whose life was dramatically touched and changed by Jesus. We don't know how Joanna found Jesus, but she became closely connected to the ministry of Jesus and was with Mary Magdalene and the other women who visited and discovered the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection. If Chuza was this nobleman, perhaps Joanna's love for Jesus started when Jesus healed her son. At any rate, Joanna gave of her personal wealth to financially support Jesus' ministry.

FILL MY CUP LORD

By Richard Blanchard

Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking:
“Draw from my well that never shall run dry.”

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasure earthly things afford.
But none can match the wond'ous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ, my Lord.

So, my brother, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away.
My blessed Lord will come and save you
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray.

CHORUS

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.