

A DEEPER DIVE

March 29, 2026

John 4: 4-30

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

Prayer Focus – Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading– John 4:4-30

Consider this– A familiar (and unfamiliar) story.

I think that some of the stories in the Bible (prodigal son, Red Sea, lots of the parables, etc.) are so familiar that there is a temptation to check out on a Sunday. Hopefully this isn't what happened. The story about the Samaritan woman is one that has been used, preached on, and explained so much that it's easy to think it has nothing left to tell us. Every day this week, read, contemplatively, this story, asking the Lord to give you new insights. The woman talks to Jesus about worship and the difference between what the Samaritans do and what the Jews do. Focus on understanding what Jesus meant when he told the woman that, "a time is coming, and has now come when the true worshippers the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks" (NIV). What makes someone a true worshiper? Would you consider yourself a "true worshiper"? Why or why not?

Tuesday: Reading– John 4:6

Consider this– Hot and tired.

Sometimes we forget the real humanity of Jesus. Verse 6 says that Jesus was tired. The NIV also tells us that it was about noon. Probably pretty hot at that time of day. Do you think much about this side of Jesus' life on earth? Does the fact that in this passage we see this very human side of Jesus give you a more complete picture of Jesus?

Wednesday: Reading– John 4:4-30

Consider this– A simple request.

Jesus asks the woman for a drink. I don't know anything about wells in the Middle East during the time of Jesus, but I wonder why didn't Jesus just get the water himself? Was he purposefully asking the woman for a drink to open the chance for a conversation? Whatever the reason, the conversation started. What did the woman say to Jesus, rather than just giving him some water? What was the result of this conversation? Ask the Lord for the opportunity to turn every-day conversations into chances to share your testimony and the gospel message.

Thursday: Reading– John 4:4-30

Consider this– Why noon?

Commentators say that the woman came to the well at noon, even though the usual time for women to get water was early in the morning. Why did this woman come to the well alone? Why wouldn't she want to come out with the rest of the women early in the day? Did Jesus purposely arrive at the well at noon to talk with this woman? He would have had a wider audience if he would have come during the early hours when there were a lot more women there? Samaritans, as we know, were despised by the Jews. They were outcasts. Was the woman Jesus met an outcast among outcasts? What other places in the gospels can you find Jesus dealing directly with outcasts and social pariahs? What does this tell you about Jesus? Do you see instances in the New Testament where his disciples are imitating his ministry by going to outcasts? If you reflect on your walk with Christ, do you see instances where you ministered to the needy, the outcast, the poor, the widow, the prisoner?

Friday: Reading– John 4:4-30

Consider this– Guiding, not insisting

Notice that in the early part of the conversation, Jesus guided the conversation by answering the woman's questions. He lets her set the tone and the direction at first. He does not accuse, condemn or preach. Throughout this section the verses start by saying, "Jesus said to her," or "Jesus answered her." Before he talks about worship, or messiahship, or anything like that, he speaks openly and calmly with her, letting her ask the questions. But by the same token he doesn't let the conversation go off the rails either. What lesson can we learn about our own interaction with people by this example?

Saturday: Reading– John 4:4-30

Consider this– Why her?

Jesus' disciples come back. Why did they "marvel that he talked with a woman"?

What did the woman do after her conversation with Jesus? Does this remind you of anyone else who Jesus had interacted with?

Wiersbe says this about the conversation. "He dealt with her privately and lovingly presented the way of salvation. He captured her attention by speaking about something common and at hand –water–and used this as an illustration of eternal life. (Likewise at the cool midnight hour, He spoke to Nicodemus about wind). He did not avoid speaking of sin, but brought her face-to-face with her need."

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.