

"Living Water"  
The Gospel of John Chapter 4: 1-26

Jesus knew that if He remained in Judea a premature crisis would develop with the Jewish religious leaders. His hour had not yet come (Jhn. 2:4, 5:25, 7:30, 13:1; Lk. 22:53). The apostle Paul explains why Jesus refrained from personally baptizing anyone (1 Cor. 1: 10-17, 3: 1-11).

Jesus needed to go through Samaria to fulfill the Father's will (Jhn. 4:34, 10:18; 1 Tim. 2:3-5). The Samaritans were descendants of the northern ten tribes who were conquered by the Assyrians (2Kings 17:23-41). The Assyrians intermingled their own Peoples with the Jews who were not deported. The result was a mixture of race, religion and culture. Great animosity existed between the Samaritans and the Jews (Lk. 10:25-37).

The sixth hour would have been twelve noon. The disciples leave Jesus to rest at the well as they go into Sychar to buy food. The woman may have come to the well at this hour to avoid the women of the city because of her reputation (Jhn. 4: 17-18).

Jesus is truly God and man (JOO. 1:14; Phil. 2:5-8). Relationships can develop with a stranger by doing a favor or requesting one. The woman's response is consistent with a street smart Samaritan. Jesus ignores her reply and focuses on the "Gift of God," which is Who He is (Jhn. 3: 16)! Christ must be the focus in any evangelism endeavor (1Cor. 15:3-4).

The woman's response in verses 10 through 15 indicate she is interpreting Jesus' words in a literal physical sense (Jhn. 2:19-21, 3:1-9). She must interpret them in a literal spiritual sense. Jesus calmly and lovingly tries to bring her to the recognition of who He is.

Jesus knows that the woman must recognize her sinful condition in order to understand her need for the Savior (Mk. 1:15; Jhn. 3:19; Acts 2:36-41). She tries to change the subject from herself to the schism between the Jews and Samaritans. Jesus refuses to participate (Matt. 19:16-22).

True worship must be in "spirit and truth." The hour is now because the Messiah has come to fulfill the Old Testament types (2Cor. 1:20) and to establish a new and better covenant (Heb. 8:13). He is the great I Am (Ex. 3:14; Jhn. 8:58). He is greater than Jew or Samaritan or Gentile (Jhn. 18:35). He is God's answer to the world's sin (Jhn. 3: 17). He is the answer to her sin as well. She must respond in faith to the Master's call (Jhn. 3:18; Eph. 2:89). The Holy Spirit both convicts and cleanses (JOO. 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 6: **11**).