

John 4

ASVh with Comments

Summary. In this chapter, everyone can see that if you have faith deep in your soul, your eyes will open and link you to the right place to be saved. **John 4:1-45.** The Lord Jesus and the woman from Samaria at the well. This section of Scripture is fundamental for all humans. The Lord Jesus talks with a simple, poor-in-spirit Samaritan woman who asks straightforward questions, and the Lord gives her the answers. We can summarize the events at the well as follows: the Lord comes at the well; He talks to a Samaritan woman coming to draw water and teaches her about the living water for the soul by analogy with the earthly well water; the Lord Jesus declared Himself to the woman as the Messiah, the Christ, and the One who will teach people about how to worship the Father; He teaches her that to worship God it is necessary to worship Him in spirit and truth; the disciples return; the woman departs to the city and spreads the word about the Lord Jesus as being the Christ and stirs peoples' hearts to come to meet the Lord; the Samaritans come out of the city to meet the Lord; the Lord teaches the disciples that His food is to do the will of the Father; He teaches them about sowing the living word and harvesting the benefits; the Lord spends two days with the Samaritans and teaches them, and they come to believe for themselves that He truly is the Savior of the world. **John 4:46-54.** The Lord Jesus, by His word, heals a nobleman's son. The Lord Jesus said to the man, "your son lives," which includes the blessing of healing for his son and the spiritual blessing of faith to all his household.

¹ When, therefore, the **Lord** knew that the Pharisees had heard that **Jesus makes** and **baptizes** more disciples than John

² (indeed **Jesus Himself** did not **baptize**, but **His** disciples),

³ **He** left Judea and departed again into Galilee.

Comments 4:3. The beloved Son of God has known very well who is doing what, and here is the confirmation. He left Judea and went again to Galilee because the people had been talking about Him, and sometimes the news was not accurate; the purpose the Lord went back now was to make sure that the word spread about Him would be confirmed by Him as well. Give attention to verse 1: the news spread that the beloved Son of God has baptized people, but verse 2 tells us clearly that it was not Him who baptized but His disciples. The false news travels far and fast, and this was the start of His ministry, and the Lord Himself wanted to make sure that people know what the truth is and what is not.

Q: Why did the Lord Jesus never baptize any of His followers in water, and why did only His disciples do it?

A: The beloved Son of God came on earth to give good news, but for baptizing people, it is also His wish but not His duty that the Father has given Him (See Matthew 28:19-20).

⁴ **Now it was necessary for Him to** pass through Samaria.

⁵ **Therefore He goes** to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, **nearby** the **piece of land which** Jacob gave to his son Joseph,

⁶ and Jacob's well was **in that place**. **Jesus**, therefore, being wearied from **the travel**, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

Comments 4:4-6. The purpose of giving the information in verses 4 and 5 is only to show the traveling of the Lord.

"Jesus, therefore, being wearied ..." The purpose of verse 6, saying that the beloved Son of God is wearied, is to confirm to all readers that the beloved Son of God, now in human form, has not used His power to make His body stronger than a normal human; the traveling makes Him tired, and now in this verse, it shows clearly the humanity in the beloved Son of God.

The beloved Son will always do the Father's will; if the Bible does not tell something, all readers should take it as it is not in the Father's will to let humans know. All readers can understand that the beloved Son of God will always do the Father's will; regardless of whatever the situation is, the Lord will only do what the Father's will is. All readers can notice one thing: when the beloved Son of God must be completely human and wants every human to see Him as human, then He will only act as humans will behave. Still, when the time is to show His power, He will do this to strengthen someone else's faith and keep their mind concentrated on the things in front of them.

⁷ A woman comes out from Samaria to draw water. Jesus says to her, Give Me to drink.

Comments 4:7. This verse tells that when the beloved Son of God talks to some stranger, He always has a purpose; here, asking the woman for a drink also has two meanings, and the woman's response will benefit her. We can also see clearly that the Lord wants to show mercy to all the people, not only to the Jews themselves but even to this outsider woman; being a Samaritan, she will also receive mercy. By asking her for water, upon her action as well, the Lord Himself will give her the water of life.

⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman, therefore, says to Him, How is it that Thou, being a Jew, ask to drink from me, being a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no association with Samaritans.)

Comments 4:9. The verse tells that this is a Samaritan woman, and the Jews consider her as an outsider. At that time, by the old law, the Jews would not associate with the outsiders, especially with the Samaritan people, and that is why it makes this woman feel surprised that the beloved Son of God is talking to her.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, If you had known the gift of God, and who is saying to you, Give Me to drink, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.

Comments 4:10. "If you had known the gift of God." The verse says that the gift of God is not only the Holy Spirit alone but also that the beloved Son of God Himself is the most precious gift the Father has given to all humans.

"And who is saying to you, Give Me to drink." Now, the beloved Son of God, talking to her, wants to bring attention to Himself. But Him saying, "Give Me to drink," only made her realize that she was talking with a Jewish man who asked a Samaritan woman for a drink, not that she was talking with the Savior of the world.

"You would have asked of Him ... living water." When someone talks to the beloved Son of God, inside their heart they will be stirred up, and this woman did have that feeling, but she let her earthly feelings block it. Being a Jew and talking to her, she should think again about why this person is asking her for a drink. Now, it is a chance for her to ask the beloved Son of God for the gift of heaven for herself. However, most humans have forsaken this inner feeling when they think about the beloved Son of God, and they have ignored that feeling: the feeling inside of them that they are talking with the beloved Son of God and they should not use His name in a wrong way, which happens so often on earth.

¹¹ The woman says to Him, Sir, Thou have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; from where therefore hold Thou the living water?

¹² Thou are not greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank out of it himself, and his sons, and his livestock.

Comments 4:12. The Samaritan people have heard about all the work of the Lord since a long time ago; as this verse has told the readers, this woman has linked all the great works to the past, and she has doubted now how the beloved Son of God can do all the things as her forefathers have done for them.

The woman's statement is a common question for all people to have. Because the Lord has told her that He would give her the living water, she links this water of the Lord with Jacob's well, which they have been using, which is a common link in the mind of humans. In the old times, it was told that Jacob saw God at that spot, and then the well had been dug, and people had used that water, but the water did not have any miracle power. However, they believe that the well is the well of God because God has shown Jacob where to dig it.

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone that drinks from this water will thirst again;

Comments 4:13. In this verse, the beloved Son of God tells her the truth about the water: when you drink, the human body, after you drink, still feels thirsty again.

¹⁴ but whoever may drink from the water that I will give him will never thirst to eternity; but rather, the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.

Comments 4:14. "But whoever may drink ... to eternity." The beloved Son has told the truth to the woman: the water that the Lord will give is the water for the soul, which is the beloved Son's teaching; His teaching is that water.

"But rather, the water ... to eternal life." When the teaching of the beloved Son of God enters into your heart, it will keep flowing nonstop, even when you sleep or are awake; the living water will always be at work in you if you have taken His teaching and practice it, following with all your heart, and with no doubt and no waver. The living word of the beloved Son of God is the living water; the word of the beloved Son of God has power and will never stop flowing in all the hearts that have faith in Him.

¹⁵ The woman **says to Him, Sir**, give me this water, **in order** that I thirst not, **and not go about here** to draw.

Comments 4:15. This woman has asked the beloved Son of God for mercy and also asked of Him for the living water. Because of the way she has said, in her heart, she had believed in eternal life from the living water from the Lord; that is why she said: "Give me this water, in order that I thirst not, and not go about here to draw." Because of the word the beloved Son of God has said that He will give her "a well of water springing up to eternal life," she believes in the living water from the Lord.

"Give me this water, in order that I thirst not." Give attention to this portion of the verse: as she has asked the beloved Son of God for the living water, in her belief, if she gets this water, she will not thirst for any water again. So, think of this Samaritan woman's faith; in her heart, she believes that if she has drunk the living water from the beloved Son of God, she will never need another water again; that is her faith.

¹⁶ **He says to her**, Go, call **out your** husband, and come **here**.

Comments 4:16. The Lord knows who the woman is, but the Lord has told her to call her husband, and her answer will tell all readers who truly she is.

¹⁷ The woman answered and said **to Him**, I have no husband. **Jesus says to her**, **You said rightly**, I have no husband;

¹⁸ for **you have** had five husbands, and he whom **you now have** is not **your** husband; this **you have spoken** truly.

Comments 4:18. This verse shows clearly that the beloved Son of God knows everyone; He knows them until the core; the Lord has not met this woman yet, but He knows who she is, and that had been told to all readers here that the beloved Son of God has full knowledge about everyone on earth.

¹⁹ The woman **says to Him, Sir**, I perceive that **Thou are** a prophet.

²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where **it is proper** to worship.

Comments 4:20. The Samaritans themselves had knowledge about the God Most High as well, but because they had been treated as outsiders, their place of worship was not inside Jerusalem city. The Lord has chosen the Jews to worship Him inside Jerusalem city. By the old Law, during festivals of Sabbath, the outsiders could not be inside the holy temple.

"Our fathers worshipped in this mountain." She is talking about the root of her people; as the verse has told, they worshiped up in the mountain.

²¹ **Jesus says to her**, Woman, believe **Me**, **that a time is coming**, when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem, **will you worship the Father**.

Comments 4:21. This verse is the most important verse of this conversation. To worship the Father is not the place that is important; as the beloved Son of God tells, the time is coming now, that not in any place, nor in Jerusalem, where people should worship the Father because the Father Himself has sent His beloved Son for people, and later on, the verses will tell clearer where the people should worship the Father.

²² You worship **what you do** not know; we worship **what** we know **because deliverance** is from **out of** the Jews.

Comments 4:22. When the beloved Son of God has told in this verse, "deliverance is from out of the Jews," He does not mean that the salvation is only for the Jews, but that every human who accepts the beloved Son of God and believes in His birth, death, and resurrection, and also has faith that through Him only their sins can be forgiven will find deliverance.

"We worship ... out of the Jews." When the verse says "we," this refers only to the Jewish people at this moment, but with the beloved Son of God Himself, the salvation has been extended to all humans, starting

from the Jews. The Lord Jesus came through the Jewish nation because these are the chosen people by the Father Himself; He has chosen them.

²³ But a time is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such as these to worship Him,

Comments 4:23. "But a time is coming, and now is." As this verse tells, right now, the time has come for all humans to be saved; "and now is," which means at this moment when the beloved Son of God has taken human form, this is what the term "now" means.

"When the true ... in spirit and truth." Give attention to the term "the true worshipers," which means not those who worship only by action but those who worship with the deep of their hearts, without using the mind to convince themselves to worship, but the deep urge from the heart has stirred the mind of the person to think after the heart, that is the true worshiper.

"In spirit and truth." This is the part that is hard for humans to understand because humans have used the term spirit in specific meaning only, but for the Lord Himself, the spirit is the heart of the soul of true believers, and only the true believers can feel that heart; and that heart itself will reveal the truth about God to that person.

"And indeed, the Father seeks such as these to worship Him." The Father Himself seeks the persons who have true faith and true feelings in seeking how to glorify the God Most High and being aware of themselves at all times. That is what the Father is seeking.

²⁴ God the Spirit, and those worshiping Him, it is necessary to worship in spirit and truth.

Comments 4:24. This verse talks about the Father's identity Himself. The Father Himself cannot be seen or touched, and those who want to worship Him and know Him must do so with the deep of their spirit and the truth of their heart; only that way can the Father be joyful when all His children worship Him with the truth of their own spirit.

²⁵ The woman says to Him; I know that Messiah is coming who is called Christ; whenever He comes, He will tell us all.

Comments 4:25. All readers can notice from this verse that the knowledge about the beloved Son of God has been told long ago, and all humans have heard about the Messiah coming. Still, not all of them are seeking for Him with their hearts, but for those who open their hearts to Him, the beloved Son of God Himself will make them know that He is beside them already in this time.

Q: What does the term Messiah really mean? **A:** Messiah is the One who will lead all humans to be saved and be able to be close to the Father Himself because all those who accept the Messiah will also be accepted by the Father Himself. Also, the Bible tells us that the Messiah is the anointed One of the Father.

²⁶ Jesus says to her, I am the One speaking to you.

Comments 4:26. The Bible has talked about the Messiah, but here is the place where the Lord Jesus has told by Himself that He Himself truly is the Messiah for humans, and all readers should believe that as well. Even you did not hear Him speak, as He spoke to this Samaritan woman, but the Bible has declared the beloved Son of God as Messiah. All readers can notice the innocence of her heart; she has talked to the beloved Son of God as children would; her heart is clean as a child's heart would be, and that is why the beloved Son of God declared Himself to her as Messiah.

²⁷ And upon this came His disciples. They marveled that He was speaking with a woman; however, no one said, What do Thou seek? Or, Why do Thou speak with her?

Comments 4:27. The beloved Son of God talked with the Samaritan woman, which made His disciples feel uncomfortable regarding her because she is not a Jewish person. These questions here in this verse are common questions they would ask Him; they would want to know the purpose of the conversation with the outsiders.

Q: How did John the apostle know all this detailed discussion the Lord Jesus had with this Samaritan woman when none of the disciples were present at the well until now? **A:** That is the purpose of the Gospel of John in the Bible: the Holy Spirit has given Him the words to put down, which the men themselves cannot repeat the entire conversation, especially when they are not there. Here is yet another example that clearly shows that the Bible must be Holy Spirit dictated. The writers of the Bible received their words directly from the

Holy Spirit; for example, only the Holy Spirit can reproduce this entire discussion between this Samaritan woman and the Lord Jesus.

²⁸ Then the woman left her water pot, and went away into the city, and says to the people,

²⁹ Come, see a **Man** who told me how many I did. Can this be the **Christ**?

Comments 4:29. All readers can clearly see that the Lord chooses whomever He pleases; this Samaritan woman is an example; she is an outsider, but her heart and wishes are clean; she believes in her heart that the beloved Son of God, the Christ Himself, has spoken to her.

³⁰ They went forth out of the city and were coming towards **Him**.

Comments 4:30. In this verse, we see that the beloved Son of God knows very well whom He will use to make an impact: the woman went away and talked to the people of the town; what she said to the people made all their hearts stirred, and they want to know who this is that she is talking about, could this be the Christ Himself.

³¹ In the meanwhile, the disciples were urging **Him**, saying, **Rabbi**, eat.

³² But **He** said to them, **I** have food to eat that you do not know.

Comments 4:32. In this verse, the beloved Son of God has told His disciples to think about what food He is talking about; that is why He used the term “food to eat that you do not know.” For the disciples, if it is real food, they will know, but here, the beloved Son of God had emphasized that this food they do not know what it is, just to make them think.

³³ The disciples, therefore, said one to another, Did anyone bring **Him** to eat?

³⁴ **Jesus** says to them, **My** food is to do the will of **Him** having sent **Me**, and to complete **His** work.

Comments 4:34. This verse tells that the beloved Son of God has His life living for serving the Father on this earth; that is why He did tell the disciples that His food is to do the will of the Father; this has told all readers clearly that He has come and lived on this earth for that purpose only.

“My food.” To accomplish the will of the Father, He speaks the living word from the Father to them, and that living word is the true food that He Himself has received from the Father, and to accomplish the work, He has given that living word for humans to have it as well.

³⁵ Do you not say, That there are still four months, then comes the harvest? Behold, **I** say to you, Lift up your eyes, and look upon the fields because they are bright towards harvest.

Comments 4:35. When the beloved Son of God has told them to look out on the fields, He wants them to open their eyes and see all the living souls on the earth, and they will see that those souls need to be fed as well; these lost souls will be ready to receive the Word after the disciples have heard the living Word as well, and the disciples are the workers who will go out and gather them; after they have given them the knowledge they received from the Lord, the disciples will receive the benefit of it as well.

“That there are still four months, then comes the harvest.” The Lord Jesus means here that He will be with the disciples for a while to teach them, and then they are ready to go and spread the Word.

³⁶ The one reaping receives a reward and gathers fruit into life eternal; so that the one sowing and the one reaping may rejoice together.

Comments 4:36. “The one reaping receives a reward and gathers fruit into life eternal.” So, those who have received the living word will be the ones who receive the reward if they have opened their hearts, not just to receive but to do as well; when they follow the living word, they themselves will have that chance to be as one of the beloved Son of God’s disciples and go out to do the work by spreading the living word out further.

“So that the one sowing and the one reaping may rejoice together.” The first disciples and those who have received the word after both will reap eternal life together; that is why the verse says that they will rejoice together. In the end time, when all are in heaven, they will all rejoice together.

“May rejoice together.” They both will be together in heaven and rejoice together because they have benefited from the living word together.

³⁷ For herein is the saying true, One is sowing and another harvesting.

Comments 4:37. The one sowing is the disciples, including all who receive the word and do it. So then, when they do the work of spreading out, all those who have received the word will reap the benefits; both of them still reap the benefits together; as they go up on the stairs, the first will reach to the end, but the next person who follows will reach to the end as well, and that is why the verse says: "One is sowing and another harvesting."

³⁸ **I** sent you to **harvest what you** have not **toiled for**; others have **toiled**, and **you have** entered into their **laborious toil**.

Comments 4:38. The true laborer is the Holy Spirit; God's beloved Son has taught the disciples, but the real laborer is the Holy Spirit. When the disciples talk, the Holy Spirit works, and that is why the verse has told that it is not them that labor; others have labored, and the disciples are just there to reap the benefit when the people who heard the word turn their hearts to the Lord, and the disciples have received the reward for that. So, the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ work together in people's hearts when a disciple tells the Gospel.

"Others have toiled." You do not make the people have faith; instead, the word you have spoken leads the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and people's faith. The Holy Spirit is one person, but He enters around many persons at the same time and then continues the labor in others. We can think this way as well: the Holy Spirit works in one heart, and that person goes out and works, continuing as well, so it becomes a chain reaction; that is why the term others is used here.

"You have entered into their laborious toil." You have entered into it because it started from you who has obeyed the Holy Spirit and went out to work; you have entered into their labor by being the one who gives out the word to them.

³⁹ **Now** from that city, many of the Samaritans believed **in Him** because of the word of the woman, who testified, **He** told me all things **whatever** I did.

⁴⁰ **Then even as** the Samaritans came **towards Him**, they **asked Him** to abide with them; and **He abode** there two days.

⁴¹ **And** many more believed because of **His** word,

Comments 4:40-41. The beloved Son of God has started His work; within these two days, God's beloved Son has spoken many things to people, more than the Samaritan woman could tell them; that is why more people believed in Him.

⁴² **and** they said to the woman, **No longer** we believe because of **your** speaking; for ourselves have heard and know that this is **truly** the **Savior** of the world.

Comments 4:42. We should all pay attention to this verse; people may go to witness to people, but the Holy Word itself has to do the work because when people hear the word from the beloved Son of God, the Holy Word will work in their hearts, as this verse has told: "for ourselves have heard, and know that this is truly the Savior of the world." The Holy Spirit uses the Holy Word that the Lord has spoken to work in people's hearts.

⁴³ **Then** after the two days, **He** went forth from **there** into Galilee.

⁴⁴ For **Jesus, Himself** bore witness, that a prophet **has** no honor in his own **hometown**.

Comments 4:43-44. "A prophet has no honor in his own hometown." There are many stages of His childhood life that He has been moving with His earthly parents, but no place itself that the beloved Son of God called home; that is why there are many debates among humans, but the Bible has told all readers as well that He is from Galilee.

⁴⁵ **Therefore** when **He** came into Galilee, the **Galileans** received **Him**, having seen all the things that **He** did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they **themselves** also went **to** the feast.

Comments 4:45. The verse tells us that they received Him.

⁴⁶ **He** came therefore again **into** Cana of Galilee, where **He** made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

Comments 4:46. As the verse says, we can see that the beloved Son of God has not been there the first time. The people had already known about the beloved Son of God from His work itself, not just from the rumors.

⁴⁷ He, **having heard** that **Jesus** had come **from Judea** into Galilee, went **to Him**, and **asked** that **He** would come down, and heal his son; for he was **about to die**.

Comments 4:47. As the verse has told, the father has faith; when his own child was close to death, the father's mind was thinking about how to help his own son, and his heart told him that one way to help him was by asking mercy from the beloved Son of God.

⁴⁸ **Jesus** therefore said **to him**, **Unless you** see signs and wonders, **you will not** believe.

⁴⁹ The nobleman **says to Him, Lord**, come down **before** my child **dies**.

Comments 4:49. The beloved Son of God has seen through his heart how much this father loves his son; with mercy, the Lord will do the work.

⁵⁰ **Jesus** **says to him**, Go, **your son lives**. The man believed the word that **Jesus** **said to him**, and he went.

Comments 4:50. All readers take notice that the beloved Son did not ask about the condition of sickness or any kind of injury, but the beloved Son gave a blessing that the child would live, as the verse said: "your son lives."

"The man believed ..." Give attention: the belief in the word of the Lord has linked the man to faith, the heart of the man believed in the word that the beloved Son of God has spoken, and he went home with faith, and that faith will give him the benefit.

⁵¹ **And he now** going down, his servants met him, saying, that his **child lives**.

⁵² **Then** he inquired **from** them the hour **in which he got better**. They said **then** to him, Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him.

⁵³ So the father **perceived** that it was at that hour **at** which **Jesus** **said to him**, **Your son lives**. And himself believed, and **all his household**.

Comments 4:53. As the verse says, by the man's faith in the beloved Son of God, his son will live, and he has received the blessing.

"And himself believed, and all his household." When the Lord said to the man, "your son lives," that also includes the blessing of healing and faith to the household. The confirmation of faith has come upon him when the verse says, "himself believed."

⁵⁴ This is again the second sign that **Jesus** did, having come **from Judea** into Galilee.

Comments 4:54. This sign is the second sign of mercy that the Lord did. The beloved Son of God has done many signs (See John 2:23, 3:2, 4:45), but this is the second sign of mercy; other signs that He has done are signs of authority, but this verse has talked about the second sign of mercy.

The miracle of water to wine in Cana of Galilee (See John 2:11) was a sign of mercy towards His mother, Mary.

Life and Faith Application. 1) The Lord Jesus is the living water for our souls; invite Him to come into your life. 2) God is Spirit; we must worship Him in spirit and truth. 3) Spread the living word to others, and you will both rejoice together in the end. 4) Believe the word of the Lord Jesus, and blessings will come to you and your family.