

**Men's Sunday Night Live**  
**Lesson 4 - John 4:1-54**  
**Finding Identity and Purpose**  
**"Living Water"**

There are two sections in this chapter: (1) Christ's ministry to the Samaritan woman (4:1–42); and (2) Christ's miracle for the nobleman (4:43–54). In one sense, both involved miracles; for the transformation of this sinful woman was as wonderful as the "long-distance" healing of the nobleman's son.

The Samaritans were "half-breeds," part Jew and part Gentile. They were considered outcasts and were despised by the Jews. Jesus "needed to go through Samaria" because God had planned for this sinful woman to meet Him and find in Him the water of life.

Having expressed interest in the living water the woman found herself confronted with her sins. Christ's command, "*Go, call your husband!*" was for the purpose of quickening her conscience and forcing her to face her own sin. Note how the woman tried to change the topic of conversation! Like convicted sinners today, she began to argue about differences in religion! "Where should we worship?" "Which religion is right?" Jesus pointed out that the important thing is knowing the Father, and this can be done only through salvation, and salvation is of the Jews.

Next, we see the nobleman's son dying in Capernaum, about twenty miles away from Cana. The man wanted Christ to come with him, for he did not believe that He could cure the boy from a distance. Jesus did not go with the man, but instead spoke the words: "*Go your way; your son lives.*" He believed the Word!

The nobleman apparently stayed in Cana, took care of some business, and then went home the next day. He had "joy and peace in believing" because his trust was in Christ's word alone. He was not surprised when his servants told him, "Your son lives!" He merely asked them when the cure took place and verified that it was the very hour that Christ spoke the word. The result: his whole family trusted Christ. "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Romans 10:17

Jesus in verse 48 gives the basic reason why people will not believe: they want to see signs and experience wonders. Keep in mind that Satan is able to perform signs and wonders to deceive. If your salvation is based on feelings, dreams, visions, voices, or any other fleshly evidence, then you are on dangerous ground. It is faith in the Word alone that gives us the assurance of eternal life.

## Read John 4:1-45 and answer the following questions

1. In verse 4 we are told that Jesus “needed to” go through Samaria. Most Jews would go out of their way to avoid this area. What do you believe Jesus’ intent was?

2. Why was there such resentment between the Jews and the Samaritans?

3. In verse 7, Jesus asks the woman for some water. In verse 9, John gives us one reason why this was such an unusual request. What is the reason? What are some other reasons it was unusual for Jesus to be talking to this woman?

4. In what ways does Jesus’ attitude toward women seem different from the usual Jewish attitude?

5. How did the woman interpret the words of Jesus in verse 10, “*He would have given you living water*”? What really did Jesus mean? (See Jer. 2:12-13; Zec. 14:7-9; Isa. 44:3-4; Eze. 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; John 7:37-39)

6. How does the Samaritan woman identify Jesus in each of the following verses?

4:9

4:11

4:19

4:29

7. What does Jesus say about “*Living water*”? (See 4:10-14)

8. What do you think it means to worship “*in spirit and in truth*”? (See 4:23-24)

9. What did the disciples learn about Jesus, themselves and their mission from the encounter with the Samaritan woman? (See 4:31-38)

10. What impact should this conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus have on us and our witness in the world?

**Read John 4:46-54 and answer the following questions**

11. What’s surprising about the second miracle of Jesus healing the nobleman’s son?

12. This nobleman showed amazing persistence and faith. How was this seen through his life in a practical way?

## The Nobleman's Son

The key to understanding the significance of Jesus' second sign miracle is geography. The Nobleman and his dying son lived in Capernaum, the main city of the Galilee region. But Jesus was 20 miles away at Cana, where Jesus' first sign miracle of turning water into wine had taken place. That means the Nobleman had walked some 40 miles round trip. That works out to be at least a two-day trip by foot to petition Jesus to heal his son. Jesus merely spoke a word that knew nothing of phones, messaging or e-mail. No wonder this miracle produced faith. *"So the Father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household."* John 4:53