

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – Sept 24 – 29
Doing Life Together – SHIFT from Mono to Convo

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 4:1-4

OBSERVATION: In verse 4, we are given the impression that there was some pressing necessity for Jesus to travel through Samaria. Jews travelling between Judea and Galilee normally went around Samaria (a six-day journey), but Jesus was compelled by Holy Spirit to travel through Samaria for a divine appointment. Even though the vast majority of the Jews at the time of Jesus despised the Samaritans ... Jesus still saw them as part of his plan and family. In fact, Jesus would specifically mention Samaria when he told his disciples: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 4: 5-8

OBSERVATION: In the heat of the day, a Samaritan woman has come to draw water from the well. (Some speculate that the woman comes at midday to avoid meeting people because she was ashamed of her life. But it is just speculation with no basis.) What follows is an extraordinary encounter between Jesus and this unnamed woman. "Jesus ignores the centuries-old hostility between Jew and Samaritan, rides roughshod over the battlements of an entrenched gender-divide, and actually engages this woman in conversation." [4] It is the longest conversation between Jesus and another person recorded in the Gospels.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 4:10-15

OBSERVATION: Jesus knows that this woman is "thirsty" and promises that his living water will completely quench a person's spiritual longing and thirst. Jesus describes this living water as becoming a spring of gushing water, eternally flowing from within the person who receives his gift. In John 7:38-39, John explains that living water represents the Holy Spirit.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 4:16-19

OBSERVATION: Some speculate that the woman brought up the subject of worship to change the course of conversation away from an immoral past. I would like to suggest that this woman had a genuine interest in worship and theology and was simply asking an honest theological question from someone she regarded as a prophet. (The New Testament records several theological conversations between Jesus and women.)

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 4:19-20

OBSERVATION: After Jesus' speech about true, spiritual worship, the woman, becoming increasingly aware of his spiritual stature says, "I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Jesus answers this with "egō eimi" (I am), a term thought to refer to God himself. In the Greek, verse 26 literally says, "I am he who is speaking to you." (John 4:26) Jesus clearly identifies himself to her as the Messiah.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 3

OBSERVATION: In contrast, the woman was female, a Samaritan (despised by the Jews), and probably uneducated. She may have lived an immoral life, she is nameless and possibly vulnerable. She may also have been an outcast in her town. She meets Jesus, a Jewish man, in the midday sun in what would have been a scandalous encounter according to the customs of society at that time. Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman were very different, completely different. Yet John puts these two people side by side in his Gospel and shows that Jesus treated them with equal concern and regard, and he taught both of them precious eternal truths.