

“Jesus gives. Man must worship.”

John 4:1-42

Sermon by Chris Ball

Proposition: Jesus shows himself as the perfect gift verifying his request of true worshippers.

Introductory Thoughts: Book end thoughts of the author so you understand better how this story fits into the broader context.

John 1:14-18

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known

John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name

- John’s central contention is that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God, and that by believing in him people may have eternal life. John 20:30-31
John the beloved disciple of Jesus- first called, cousin of Jesus, sons of thunder, writer of 5 NT books; Palestinian Jew - aware of both Jewish and non-Jewish readers
- This gospel account probably written much later than the synoptic gospels

The Story told through Verse by Verse Explanation

We all like stories. Netflix seems to be doing well! This morning, our passage of Scripture is a story set in a real place, with real people. - Story of Harrison and asking us all what we learned from Monster's University! Some stories we can learn more from than others. This is an inspired story...we can learn much.

3 conversations. dialogues. interactions.

- Conversation between Jesus and the woman (v. 7-26)

Jesus is...all-sufficient for now and forever v 7-15

People are... easily-satisfied for a short time v 7-15

Jesus is... all-knowing v 16-26

People are... easily-distracted v 16

So what...?

- You need to ask yourself if you are like the woman, merely looking for things that will simply make your earthly life easier or more comfortable.
- You need to identify the things in your life that are keeping you from an all-fulfilling relationship with Jesus (sin - adultery or not sin - peripheral issues).

Quote: "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." — C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

Albert Einstein once said, “Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”

- Conversation between Jesus and his disciples (v. 27, 31-28)

Jesus is...Eternally focused. v 32-38

People are... Earthly focused. v. 31-33

So what...?

- You need to evaluate your perspective? Maybe a better thing to do...would be to take a step of humility and ask a godly friend or spouse to speak into your life on this issue. Its so easy for us to be spiritually blind. My perspective in China so based on my emotions (paying for ball at the gym or paying the waffle guy!)

Illustration: Keeping our heads up and eyes open. Be aware! Junior High B-ball coach giving us special glasses, where if we looked down we could not see anything...we had to dribble with our heads up and eyes scanning the court. In a similar way, we must live like this spiritually (not just Sundays)- Asking questions of God, like who should I befriend, who should I take to lunch, who should I intentionally engage- It is easy to look down physically (at our phones,etc) and metaphorically (selfish and not interested in others life). In China, I can tell you honestly that this is just as much a struggle as it is was over here. No magic happened when we entered a foreign country...but our mindset was different! Ask G to change your mindset and perspective today!

- Conversation between woman and the townspeople (v 28-30,39-42)

Jesus is...the Savior of the world - v. 42

People are...instruments and mirrors used by God in his perfect plan to share truth and reflect his glory.

Jesus is ...Believed and worshipped.

People are...worshippers.

So what...?

- You must believe He is Savior v. 42 (starting from the townspeople and not the woman).
- You must give testimony to what he has done v. 39.
- You must point people to the Living Word and not your opinion v. 42

Conclusion:

Remember the statement in verse 23-24 “Father is seeking worshippers who worship in Spirit and in Truth” - Worship is not just singing here on Sunday morning. Worship is a lifestyle. We all are worshippers. The question this passage seems to be asking is -What drives your worship? The Holy Spirit’s passions and desires and the commands and principles from Scripture...or the advertisements, marketing campaigns, sexually saturated agenda of our current culture?

At the end of this story we see the witness of the woman bringing many other Samaritans to belief in Jesus as the Messiah. Her eyes are open to the cure of eternal thirst. Jesus shows himself mightily to the woman and as a result many others as well. What a great story. A story with gripping characters. mystery. scandal...and more. But there is Hope. Hope in the person of Jesus Christ. Hope in someone who will fill the emptiness like none of her 5 husbands and current boyfriend could ever fill. Hope in a Sovereign God who knows her deepest darkest secrets, yet still extends his grace encompassed with love. This Hope comes through faith alone in Christ

alone. There is the gospel. This story screams of HOPE and the object of that Hope is Jesus. He is mightier...He is better...He is All-satisfying, thirst-quenching, Everything!

This amazing story teaches us much about Jesus and much about ourselves. The way we live ultimately point back to our view of God and our view of God ultimately fuels the way we live. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten full of grace and truth. The incarnation of Jesus pulls back the curtains of Heaven and shows us a beautiful vivid display of God Himself. This story reveals God. Jesus is the great I AM. He shows us his all-sufficient, all-knowing, completely sovereign self. The all important question presents itself just like it does every time one looks into the glorious reality of the Godhead- What will you do with Jesus? Man is easily satisfied, easily distracted, and naturally earthly focused. He must increase. I must decrease.

You must receive the gift of living water.

You must raise your eyes to the harvest.

You must worship him as Savior of the world.