



## Portrait of Christ

*Sketches in the Gospel of John*

Inductive Discovery Lesson 5  
**John 4:1-54**

### Jesus: The Evangelist

Jesus was attracting attention wherever He went. People knew His name. Crowds came hoping to see a miracle. If the Lord only cared about gathering crowds, He would have stayed in Judea. But Jesus is a soul-winner. He looks for individuals, not crowds. So Jesus left Judea and returned to Galilee.

On the way, He encountered a lonely woman at a well. She looked at Jesus and saw a weary stranger. Jesus looked at her and saw a weary heart. So the Lord started a conversation. When His words hit close to home, she tried to change the subject. But Jesus swept away the barriers and she believed. With her heart changed, she couldn't wait to tell others about Jesus!

That brief stop in an unlikely town became an occasion to win souls. So did a serious illness.

A man, completely undone by his child's suffering, came looking for Jesus. He desperately wanted a miracle for his son, but Jesus gave this father more than he asked for. Would he take Jesus at His word? On the way home, his servants met him with the news—*your son lives!* When this desperate father saw that *a word* from Jesus breathed life back into his son, he and his entire house believed.

## **Working Text for John 4:1-54**

New King James Version (NKJ)

**1** Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John **2** (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), **3** He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. **4** But He needed to go through Samaria. **5** So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. **6** Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

**7** A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." **8** For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. **9** Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. **10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." **11** The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? **12** Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" **13** Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

**15** The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." **16** Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." **17** The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." **19** The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." **21** Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." **25** The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." **26** Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

**27** And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" **28** The woman then

left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, **29** "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" **30** Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

**31** In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." **32** But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." **33** Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" **34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. **35** Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! **36** And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. **37** For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' **38** I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

**39** And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." **40** So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **41** And many more believed because of His own word. **42** Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

**43** Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. **44** For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. **45** So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

**46** So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. **48** Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." **49** The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" **50** Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. **51** And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" **52** Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." **53** 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. **54** This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.









### **INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

### **APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

#### **John 4:1-26**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

#### **John 4:27-38**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

#### **John 4:39-45**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

#### **John 4:46-54**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

## Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. \_\_\_\_\_

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Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

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## Take A Closer Look

**“Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields,  
for they are already white for harvest.”**

**John 4:35b**

### *Memorize God’s Word*

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

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### *Meditate on God’s Word*

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God’s Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won’t always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

**Look up.** What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this teach you about life or people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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### ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?  
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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### **Something to Think About . . .**

Note the example Christ sets as a soul-winner. He did not allow personal prejudices or physical needs to hinder Him. He met this woman in a friendly way and did not force her into a decision. Wisely, He guided the conversation and allowed the Word to take effect in her heart.

Warren Wiersbe

**Message Notes:**

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The area is framed by a dark, irregular border that looks like a torn piece of paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.

