

John 4:5-26 NIV

# The All-Time Jeopardy Champion!

Sunday, March 23 at 8:00 &amp; 10:45

Third Sunday in Lent – 2014

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 &amp; 7; Meals at 12 &amp; 6

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: In this gospel reading, let us marvel at Jesus' ♦physical humanness, ♦spiritual compassion, ♦need recognition, ♦truth focus, and ♦self-identification!

1. **Physical Humanness (vv. 5-6):** <sup>5</sup> So he [Jesus] came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. // Keep in mind: Jesus IS God in the flesh, yet He WAS tired. We can relate; while writing this sermon *I took a power-nap*, while hearing this sermon *you may long to do the same!* Also, note that Jesus' was in Samaria, the time was probably noon, and "both Jewish and Samaritan religious leaders taught that it was wrong to have any contact with the opposite group...or even to speak to one another."<sup>1</sup>
2. **Spiritual Compassion (vv. 7-15):** In this section *Jesus is in need of rest and water*, yet He put aside His own needs in order to show *spiritual concern for the Samaritan woman!* <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with

Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this [physical] water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the [spiritual] water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

- a. Did you note the woman's *surprise* that Jesus spoke to her? May the Lord help us to *see* and *seize* our opportunities *to show compassion to others!*
  - b. In response to Jesus' offer of "living water," her answer was similar to that of Nicodemus: Can a man "enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" (John 3:4 NIV) In both cases, Jesus was *talking spiritual* while His hearers were *thinking physical!*
3. **Need Recognition (vv. 16-18):** *Everyone needs Jesus, but many are unaware of their need!* To be with God *we must be righteous*, BUT no one is righteous, "not even one." (Rom. 3:10) So, thru Jesus, God offers us His righteousness! <sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." <sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." // Jesus knew everything about the woman; *He knows much more than the greatest Jeopardy champion –*

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samaritan>

not only about her, but also about ♦you and ♦me and ♦everyone and ♦everything! As the Bible says: “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Heb. 4:13 NIV) Dr. Kretzmann commented about the woman: “She must become fully conscious of her guilt against the Sixth Commandment and the entire Law before she would have the proper desire and longing for the riches of Christ’s salvation.” (428) So, *knowing our need*, let us ♦confess, ♦be sorry, and ♦believe!

4. **Truth Focus (vv. 19-24)**: Notice how the woman tried to turn the conversation toward the location of worship: <sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” // It’s typical for people to *major in the minors!* We can easily get way too caught up in the minors of ♦service times, ♦service structure, and ♦service customs; therefore, **Jesus turned the conversation to the majors of spirit and truth!** Worship in spirit begins in the heart—with *faith in Jesus*, and involves the mind—as *we listen attentively and respond honestly!* Worship in truth is always in harmony with God’s Holy Word; *Jesus prayed to the Father*: “Your word is truth!” (John 17:17 NAU)

5. **Self-Identification (vv. 25-26)**: Think about the progression of Jesus’ interaction with the woman:
- He surprised her *by speaking to her*.
  - He turned the conversation *from the physical to the spiritual*.
  - He kindly revealed her sin, *which pointed to her need for forgiveness*.
  - And He steered her away from the minors of the outward *to the majors of the inward*.

Now, notice Jesus’ humility in presenting her with what she needed: <sup>25</sup> **The woman said, “I know that Messiah”** (called Christ) **“is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”** <sup>26</sup> **Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”** // Wow! Our flesh and blood Savior, *the only workable solution to her need*, was right in her presence! Even though Jesus is God, †He cared about the Samaritan woman, †He took time with her, and †He saved her!

**Some Ways for Us to Respond**: Help me fill in the blanks:

- Since Jesus loves everyone, let us do the s\_\_\_\_\_!
- Like a spring that never stops flowing, let us keep sharing God’s saving t\_\_\_\_\_!
- Since God knows everything, let us be heartily s\_\_\_\_\_ for our s\_\_\_\_\_!
- May our worship always be in s\_\_\_\_\_ (*with meaning*) and in t\_\_\_\_\_ (*based on God’s Holy Word*)!
- Since we *know about* AND *trust in* Jesus as our Savior, let us rejoice in God’s p\_\_\_\_\_!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

For Much More: [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

**Having been saved thru Jesus, let us live for Him and share the good news!**  
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