**JOHN:  *4.***

***THE WOMAN AT THE WELL. 4:1-42***

**Are there those people you least want to be around. We do not talk to some out of fear, we think they won’t listen to our sharing of the gospel. There are those people we think are unreachable. People in Jesus day had the same fears and prejudices. Jesus, however, broke through any barrier if it meant bringing a person to faith. Jesus was a genius at communication, and in sharing salvation. In John 4:1-43, we see Jesus reach out first to a Samaritan woman, and then to His disciples. The beautiful story of the *“woman at the well”,* shows the sensitivity and insight of the Lord Jesus. To this woman, who was half pagan, a Samaritan and a woman of ill-repute. Look how He shares with discernment and skill some of His deepest truths.**

**Initially, she saw Him only as a man. She had come to the well, at an unusual time, to escape the scorn and laughter of the other woman. Certainly, the way she had lived in the past, was something that would have attracted much gossip and a sense of degrade. Jesus speaks to her of the contrast between ordinary water and life-giving spiritual water. The water that would gratify physical thirst lasts only for a short time, but He promises water that would satisfy her heart forever. How many people try to please themselves with materialism, sport, and riches of the world and only find a continual thirst. The alternatives are all out there in the world, sex, drugs, power and greed. These all-form part of the staple diet of a humanity run on carnality. Jesus offers something completely different, a living water that will flow from within (John 7:37-8).**

**Jesus touched a tender spot when He told the Samaritan woman to go and call her husband. She then acknowledges her lifestyle realising He knew all about her. How important it is for us to remember that God’s knows all about us. He should, He is the One who put you together and knows your beginning to end.**

**In this scene Jesus does something scandalous for a 1st Century Jewish rabbi: He enters compassionate dialogue with a Samaritan woman with a questionable past. Jesus is always doing things like this, crossing boundaries, to show us that God’s grace is not limited to a certain type of person. In the Gospel according to John, salvation is for sinners, indeed, salvation is for everyone. It does not matter about your skin colour, religion or material possessions, this Gospel, is for all!**

**The delightful story of the *“woman at the well”* who finds Jesus reinforces the Gospel’s main theme: that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God. The thrust of these verses is not so much the woman’s conversation, but that Jesus is Messiah. Significant in the whole of this section is that we have a superb demonstration of Jesus love and understanding of people. God’s love of humankind knows no boundaries, for He lovingly and compassionately reaches out to a woman who is a social outcast. In contrast to the limitations of human love, which all of us experience outside of Christ. Christ exhibits that character of supreme divine love that is unselective and all-encompassing. When Jesus explains this encounter to His disciples, John stresses the proof that Jesus is truly Messiah and Son of God (v.34). Remember to guard your heart, (Proverbs 4:23).**

**1)John 4:1-26; what does this scene teach us about what Jesus is like? What does it teach us about salvation?**

**2) Why do you think Jesus had to go through Samaria on His way to Galilee (v.4)?**

**How did Jesus open the conversation?**

**3)What did Jesus mean by the phrase *“living water”* (v.10)?**

**4)Jesus words surprise the Samaritan woman (v.9). What present day situations might arouse the same racial, religious and sexual prejudices?**

**5) How does Jesus’ offer of *“living water”* contrast with what the woman thinks He means?**

**What does this offer of *“living water”* mean in your life and experience?**

**6) John 4:27-42; 1John 1:9; what did the woman need to do before she could accept Him as the Christ?**

**Why do you think Jesus brings up the woman’s past and present relationships?**

**What words show that Christ’s knowledge of her caused her to be astonished?**

**7) Since Christ knows all about us what effects does this have on us?**

**8) What is Jesus’ response to the controversy of the proper place of worship (vv.19-24)?**

**What is the significance of *“leaving her water jar”?***

**What did the Samaritan woman do with the good news she had just heard and what was the result? What do we learn from this?**

**9) What is the meaning of Jesus’ claim that *“I have food to eat of which you do not know”?***

**After Jesus encounter with the *“woman”*, what specific lessons does He apply to His disciples and to us?**

**10) How is God’s will filling and satisfying?**

**What principles can you draw from Jesus’ conversation with the woman to help you in discussing the gospel with non-Christians?**

**How do you respond to Proverbs 4:23?**