

## Sermon Notes – John 4 – Unplanned Blessings

### I. Blessing in Samaria -- Read John 4:1-6

**Samaria** – This was a region of Israel filled with foreigners, who didn't believe about God the way the Jews believed. The Jews hated them. (See 2 Kings 17:24-29)

### II. Jesus asks for Generosity – Read John 4:7-9

It will be hard to bless people if you are unwilling to let people bless you. Does it surprise you that Jesus asks for a blessing... an undeserved favor? From a Samaritan Woman???

*Jesus Offers Generosity -- The whole point of Christianity is that you must first accept Jesus' generosity for taking your sins upon himself.*

### III. Jesus Offers Her Hope – Read John 4:10-15

Getting water is **women's work**. **Half of the women alive** today fetch water. A **daily task** takes up half of the day. Average walk is **4 miles one-way**.

Our woman at the well has **gone for water at noon**. The hottest part of the day.

*It is an absolute requirement that you learn to think about life and about people and about God and how all three interact.*

This woman has gone to get water at noon rather than a cooler time. **Why? You have to ask this question in order to be able to bless!!!**

### IV. Judging Her Situation – Read John 4:16-18

*Judging people is the # 1 reason we don't bless.*

The image is **fairly trashy**. **Married five times**. **Soured out and left**. **Hard to please** and probably **unfaithful**.

*The truth is we don't know anything about her.*  
Husbands **died?? Arrested?? Divorced** her.  
**Marriages arranged**. **Multiple wives**. Complex!?

She is stuck. **And Jesus wants to help**.

### V. Jesus Builds a Spiritual Bridge – Read John 4:19-26

*That is pretty interesting. Not doctrinal correctness, but an introduction to the living Messiah.*

### VI. 12 Men to Get Food? Seriously? – Read John 4:27-34

Jesus' food is blessing people. Makes the day worth it!

### VII. The Village Changes – Read John 4:38-42

I was talking to Anne Turner (who had encephalitis – most die at that stage. She lived, but tremendous pain). And she said to me, "Brian, Mission is every time I leave my house. Mission is every time I go the grocery store. Mission is every time I open my mouth." That was how Jesus thought about mission too.

I believe the Gospel message starts with Jesus generosity, and then moves to your generosity. Jesus blesses. Then you bless. Then the village changes. Mattoon changes.

## Questions to Ponder – John 4:1-42 – Unplanned Blessing

**Agree/Disagree:** By statements you agree, place a checkmark.

- Some people don't deserve a blessing.
- We should be very careful judging people.
- The world can change if I do my small part.

1. The Jews hated Samaritans. Who is hated today?
  
2. Do you find it hard to ask people for a favor? Does it surprise you that Jesus asked for a favor?
  
3. The woman was separate from the other women in the community? How does separation happen? Have you ever been separated?
  
4. Have you ever misjudged someone?
  
5. How does Jesus present the Gospel to her?
  
6. How can you live a life of blessing and find as much joy as Jesus found in it?

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