

John 4 — He Had To Pass Through Samaria

John 4 (esp. vv. 4, 9, 27) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

“And he had to pass through Samaria,” John writes (v.4) — except geographically He didn’t. Devout Jews routinely crossed the Jordan to go around Samaria altogether. The “had to” isn’t about the map; it’s about a divine appointment with one woman. And when Jesus arrives, He breaks every barrier at once: He speaks to a Samaritan (an ethnic wall), to a woman alone at midday (a gender wall), to a woman who has had five husbands (a moral wall). His own disciples come back and “marveled that he was talking with a woman” (v.27). Today’s reading is about a God who goes out of His way — who “had to” — for the one person everyone else would have walked around.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **John 4:1–30**. Notice the words “had to” in **v.4**, then picture the map of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee and ask why a Jew traveling north “had to” go through Samaria — He didn’t; many went the long way around. So what was the necessity? Then count the barriers Jesus crosses in this one conversation, and ask: who is the person you would rather go around?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 4:4 (*he had to pass through Samaria*) · 4:9 (*Jews have no dealings with Samaritans*) · 4:27 (*they marveled he was talking with a woman*) · 4:39–42 (*many Samaritans believed*) · 3:16 (*God so loved the world*)

Other Gospels: Luke 9:51–56 (*disciples want to call down fire on a Samaritan village*) · Luke 10:25–37 (*the Good Samaritan*) · Luke 19:10 (*to seek and save the lost*)

Rest of Scripture: Galatians 3:28 (*neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female*) · Acts 1:8 (*... and Samaria ...*) · Acts 8:4–8 (*the gospel comes to Samaria*)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

You Will Never Be Thirsty Again

John Piper — Desiring God (sermon)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/you-will-never-be-thirsty-again>

On Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4 and the living water He offers.

Finding Living Water: The Transformation of the Samaritan Woman

Eric Alexander — The Gospel Coalition (sermon)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/sermon/woman-at-the-well/>

A sermon on John 4:1–30 following the woman from the well to witness.