

# Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master  
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 8

The Week of December 1, 2024

*The Savior We Long For*

**The Gift of God**

John 4:1-15

Our focus this Advent season will be on the profound encounter between Jesus and a woman of Samaria. Just as Advent celebrates the reality of Jesus stepping into human history in order to bridge the gap between God and humanity, He also crossed significant social barriers to speak to this marginalized woman. Jesus' decision to stop at Jacob's well and initiate this conversation was without discrimination. It reflects His mission to seek and save the lost. When Jesus asks the woman for a drink, He was opening the door to a spiritual conversation about living water. During Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as the only source of lasting spiritual satisfaction.

**OBSERVATION** (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?!*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Draw a † over any mention of *Jesus*.
- Place a box around *Jew/Samaritan* to emphasize ethnic distinctions.
- Draw a ≈ under every reference to *water*.
- Draw a circle around all occurrences of *well*.
- Underline all occurrences of *drink*.
- Draw a stick figure around each reference to the Samaritan woman.
- Draw a gift box over the phrase *gift of God*.
- Draw a water droplet near the words *thirst/thirsty*.
- Place parenthesis around *eternal life*.

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will

give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will 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 will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

**Summarize in one sentence what this passage is about.**

(What is the writer talking about and what is he saying about what he is talking about?)

**INTERPRETATION** (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. Why was it significant that Jesus *had to pass through Samaria* (v.4)?
2. How does the cultural and historical context explain the woman’s surprise that Jesus, a Jew, spoke to her (v. 9)? What does this passage reveal about Jesus' character and mission?
3. What is the *gift of God* Jesus mentions in verse 10? Why does He use the word *gift*? Why does Jesus shift the conversation to spiritual matters instead of simply addressing the woman’s errand to retrieve some physical water?
4. Why does the woman misunderstand Jesus’ reference to *living water* (v. 11-12)? What does Jesus mean by saying that the water He gives will become *a spring of water welling up to eternal life* (v. 14)?
5. How does Jesus’ offer of living water connect to Old Testament promises about God’s provision? (Look up Isaiah 55:1 and Jeremiah 2:13)

**APPLICATION** (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

1. Are there any Samaria's in your life—places or people you avoid—because of prejudice or discomfort? How can you follow Jesus' example?
2. How do you see Jesus initiating a conversation with someone unexpected? How do you think it impacted the disciples? What does it teach you about evangelism?
3. How does the promise of eternal life affect your perspective on temporary challenges?
4. What practical steps can you take to offer *living water* to someone in your life who is spiritually thirsty?
5. What other *wells* are you turning to in your life for satisfaction, and how do they compare to the living water Jesus offers? How can this Advent season remind you of the ultimate satisfaction found only in Jesus?

Sermon Notes: *The Gift of God*

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