THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 4.16-26



T. M. Moore

A Scriptorium Study

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Gospel of John: John 4.16-26 Copyright 2017 T. M. Moore Susie Moore, Editing and Finishing The Fellowship of Ailbe www.ailbe.org

Except as indicated, Scripture taken from the New King James Version. © Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All psalms for singing adapted from The Ailbe Psalter. All quotations from Church Fathers from Ancient Christian Commentary Series IV a and b: John, edited by Joel C. Elowsky, General Editor Thomas C. Oden (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006. Verse translation of John by T. M. Moore.

Introduction to John 4.16-26

Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well takes a pointed turn – toward her sin and God's salvation. Jesus is gracious and determined. He will not allow the conversation to be turned from its proper focus, and continues to press the woman with her situation and her need.

For her part, the woman is just like most of us. We don't want to be in the spotlight when that spotlight is a bad light. But Jesus corrects her misguided views about God and worship, rejects her spurious beliefs, and puts himself forward as God's answer and explanation for all things.

There's much to learn here about bearing witness for the Lord.

We're pleased to provide *Scriptorium* studies in PDF format at no charge. We hope you will find them helpful and encouraging as you press on in your journey toward spiritual maturity with the Lord.

Please visit our website, <u>www.ailbe.org</u>, to discover the many other resources available to serve your needs. The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Visit our website also to subscribe to our worldview study *ReVision*, our devotional newsletter *Crosfigell*.

If you find these studies, or any of our other resources helpful, we hope you will consider making a contribution to help support our work. You can do so by using the donate button at the website or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

T. M. Moore, Principal tmmoore@ailbe.org

1 First Things First

Read and meditate on John 4.16.

The focus of the conversation has changed. The woman, who was at first curious about Jesus, and why He, a Jew, should be speaking to her, a woman and a Samaritan, now begins to focus on Jesus and what He offers – "the gift of God" and "living water." But before Jesus will grant her request, certain matters must be addressed.

¹⁶Said Jesus to her, "Call your husband; go and get him, and come here."

- John 4.16

Reflect

- 1. Two reasons stand behind Jesus' instruction. The first relates to the role of a husband when it comes to any vow a wife might take. Meditate on Numbers 30.6-15. The Samaritans followed the books of Moses, as did Jesus (cf. Matt. 5.17-19). Why would Jesus have wanted this woman's husband to be present? Or at least, to make sure she knew that He understood the requirements of God's Law? Complete this prayer: Lord, You took the Law of God seriously, and obeyed it perfectly. I want to follow You, so...
- 2. Second, and just as important, Jesus was not quite ready for the spotlight to be turned off the woman and her situation. How would this woman have likely received Jesus' instruction in her heart? Do you think she might have felt a bit of defensiveness, or even embarrassment? Explain. Lord, search my heart and mind, and show me anything that...
- 3. Do you suppose Jesus knew that His instruction to this woman might cause her a bit of discomfort? Why or why not? Was Jesus right in doing this? He's trying to give her the gift of eternal life, and first he makes her feel discomfort. Is He throwing up an unnecessary obstacle? How does this instruct us as Jesus' witnesses? It's not my job to make people feel bad about their sins, Lord, but still...
- 4. Jesus clearly is holding off giving the gift of God and living water to this woman. Evidently, there are preconditions to receiving everlasting life from God. What are they? Lord, I want to be clear when I share the Gospel. Help me to...
- 5. How does Jesus instruction to this woman guide us when it comes to sharing the Good News? Is it enough for people to *believe* in Jesus and *receive* Him by prayer? Explain. Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

Summary

"Since the woman demonstrates some urgency in asking for the promised water, Jesus says to her, 'Go, call your husband,' to show that he too ought to have a share in these things. But she was in a hurry to receive the gift and wanted to conceal her guilt (for she still imagined she was speaking to a man). 'The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Christ answers her with a timely rebuke, exposing her in regard to her former husbands and as to her present one whom she had concealed." John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)

Salvation is a free gift, but certain conditions must be met before that gift can be received. It might be painful or embarrassing to have to deal with unpleasant matters, but unless a person is first *unsettled* from his or her sinful way of life, he or she will not be able to settle into God's gift. How does this affect the way you share the Good News of God's gift?

Closing Prayer

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

Psalm 51.7-12

Psalm 51.7-13 (Passion Chorale: O Sacred Head Now Wounded)
In Jesus' blood and mercy, Lord, cleanse my evil heart!
Let me washed, cleansed, renewed be and pure in whole and part.
Bring joy again and gladness; look not upon my sin.
Deliver me from sadness; renew me yet again!

Create in me a clean heart, renew me from within! Take not Your Spirit from me because of all my sin. Salvation's joy restore, Lord, and keep me in Your hand; Thus shall I tell Your strong Word to sinners in the land.

2 The Lord Knows

Read and meditate on John 4.17, 18. Simple denial never has worked before the Lord Who knows what is in every person (Jn. 2.25).

17She answered, "Oh, I have no husband." Jesus said, "Now you have answered well by saying that you do not have a husband; this is true, as you have said, 18 for you have had five husbands, true it is, and he is not your husband whom you now have."

- John 4.17, 18

Reflect

- 1. The woman's response was true, but disingenuous. Explain. Is it characteristic of sinful people like us to respond to the Word of God like this? Why? Complete this prayer: Lord Jesus, You know what's in me, who I am, how I think, what I desire. So let me...
- 2. Jesus is gracious but firm in His response to the woman's evasiveness. How can you see that He was gracious? Let my speech always be seasoned with grace, Lord, so that...
- 3. He is gracious, but He is also firm. He knows this woman, and everything about her (cf. v. 29). Do you suppose this remark by Jesus may have *increased* the woman's discomfort? Explain. Lord, we don't want people to feel discomfort about You, but...
- 4. Jesus simply forced this woman to face up to her sinful way of life. He didn't back down, didn't apologize, and didn't hesitate to bring the weight of God's Word to bear against her. What risk was He running by doing this? You know best, Lord, how to proclaim the Good News. Let me learn from You how...
- 5. It is possible to be gracious in sharing the Good News and firm about the matter of sin at the same time. The Spirit alone can bring conviction of sin (Jn. 16.8), but we have a role in His doing this. How would you explain that role? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

Summary

"The Savior was not ignorant that she had no lawful husband, and his inquiry about her husband was not the plea of one who needed hidden things revealed.... He had full knowledge of her circumstances and helpfully affirms her comment that she has no husband, although she had had so many." Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)

No one can receive the gift of God, or know the living water that brings everlasting life, unless he first faces up to and repents of his sin. The Good News of forgiveness and eternal life only makes sense against the backdrop of the bad news of sin, judgment, and death. How can you incorporate this into your witness for Christ, at the same time making sure to let your words be seasoned with grace (Col. 4.6)?

Closing Prayer
You are fairer than the sons of men;
Grace is poured upon Your lips;

Therefore God has blessed You forever.

Gird Your sword upon *Your* thigh, O Mighty One,
With Your glory and Your majesty.

And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, *and* righteousness;
And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

Your arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the King's enemies;
The peoples fall under You.

Psalm 45.2-5

Psalm 45.2-4 (*Manoah: When All Your Mercies, O My God*) You of all men are the fairest, Lord, and Your lips are flush with grace; Thus God has blessed You evermore before His holy face.

Your sword gird on Your thigh, O Lord, in splendid majesty; Ride out, resplendent in Your Word to glorious victory.

3 Let's Talk about You

Read and meditate on John 4.19, 20.

The woman does exactly what you or I might do, given the rising level of discomfort she was experiencing: She tried to get the light off herself.

¹⁹She said, "I perceive that You, Sir, are a prophet. ²⁰All our fathers at this mountain worshiped, but You argue that Jerusalem is where one ought to go to worship God."

- John 4.19, 20

Reflect

- 1. The woman tries to flatter Jesus. How can you see that? Why did she do this? Complete this prayer: When someone I'm talking to about You tries to change the subject, help me, Lord, to...
- 2. Next, the woman plays the "religion card." She explains, indirectly, that she worships God, only in a way different than how Jesus did. Why did she do this? Do people still do this today? Explain. Many people will say they "believe" in You, Lord. Help me to know...
- 3. The woman is trying to say, in effect, that, even though she may not be perfect, her way of life is just as good as Jesus' way of life. She's trying to end this conversation by making an argument for pluralism. But she's not talking to Someone Who is merely *one* way of life (Jn. 14.6). How should we respond to such arguments? Lord, everyone thinks their way of life is as good and valid as anyone else's. But...
- 4. Can you feel this woman squirming? How do *you* feel about *that*? Do you think your witness for Christ should make others squirm? Why or why not? *I might make others squirm when I talk about You, Lord, but...*
- 5. It's important to keep in mind that this is a conversation, as was Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus is not running through some rote presentation of the Gospel. He's talking with a *real person* and listening as she responds. What are you learning from this incident about sharing the Gospel? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

Summary

"On the statement 'our fathers' and what follows one must understand the disagreement between the Samaritans and the Jews over the place they considered holy. For the Samaritans worship God on the mountain called Gerizim, because they consider it to be holy. Moses refers to this mountain in Deuteronomy when he says, 'And Moses commanded the people in that day saying, "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed the Jordan." ... The Jews, on the other hand, because they think Zion is divine and God's dwelling place, think it has been chosen by the Father of all. For this reason they say Solomon built the temple on Zion, and all the levitical and priestly service is performed there" *Origen of Alexandria (fl. 200-254 AD)*

We should not get upset or irritated when people throw up diversions or objections to the Gospel. We must continue to be gracious, but we must continue with the Good News for as long as the conversation can be effectively and graciously pursued. When was the last time you had a conversation like this?

Closing Prayer

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

And Your salvation all the day,

For I do not know their limits.

I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD;

I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

O God, You have taught me from my youth;

And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.

Psalm 71.15-17

Psalm 71.12-16, 3 (Solid Rock: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less)
O God, be not too far from me; my ever-present Helper be!
Consume and shame my enemies; let them reproached and humbled be.
A Rock of habitation be; command Your Word to rescue me;
My Rock and Fortress ever be!

But as for me, my voice I raise to sing in hope and constant praise! With saving grace my voice will swell Your never-ending grace to tell. A Rock of habitation be; command Your Word to rescue me; My Rock and Fortress ever be!

4 It's about Salvation

Read and meditate on John 4.21, 22.

Jesus lets the woman play her religion card, then He summarily dismisses her claim by refocusing the conversation, not on *religion*, but on *salvation*. That is an important distinction.

²¹Then Jesus said, "This know: an hour comes when, not at this mountain, nor Jerusalem will God be worshiped. ²²For you worship what you do not know; but we know what we worship. For salvation, free and full, is from the Jews."

- John 4.21, 22

Reflect

- 1. The issue, Jesus says, is not where or how you *worship*, but whether you are *saved*. What does it mean to have salvation? Complete this prayer: *I thank You, Lord, for the gift of salvation, because...*
- 2. People who do not know the Lord still think about "salvation," even though they might not use that term. How did this woman seem to envision "salvation"? Lord, when people are wrong about what they believe, they will seek salvation in...
- 3. Jesus flatly tells this woman that she is *wrong* about her worship. Do people who do not worship *God* worship anything? Meditate on Romans 1.18-23. How would Paul answer that question? What does it mean to "worship" something? *Lord, people I know and see each day worship...*
- 4. Because people are made in the image of God, they will worship something. Wrong worship is not a viable option to true worship. Jesus said to this woman, "You worship what you do not know..." Do people today do the same thing? How can we help them to see what they worship? Lord, I want to help lost people see You and worship You, but...
- 5. What did Jesus mean by saying, "salvation is of the Jews"? Should we be able to explain salvation, and the way to it, from the Old Testament? Could you? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

Summary

"Everywhere, beloved, we have need of faith. Faith is the mother of all good, the medicine of salvation in order to obtain any real good. Without it, it is impossible to possess any of the great doctrines. Those who try anything without it are like those who venture on the sea without a boat and are drowned because they can barely swim.... Similarly, those who try to figure things out before they have learned anything are prone to suffer shipwreck.... To insure that this does not happen to us, let us hold fast to the sacred anchor by which Christ brings over the Samaritan woman now." *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Everyone worships something. Everyone has some idea of the greatest good, the most beautiful and desirable thing or circumstances, and the truest ideas. And everyone orients their lives toward these, no matter how they define them. The worship what they do not now; their worship is false. Our job is to call them to true worship. Can we expect to succeed in this if it appears, in any way, that we worship the same things they do? Explain.

Closing Prayer Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

Psalm 115.2-9

Psalm 115.4-11 (Plainfield: Nothing but the Blood of Jesus)
Idols made by men's own hand – ever to Your Name be glory –
See nor hear nor understand – ever to Your Name be glory!
They neither feel nor walk, nor can they speak or talk;
All those who serve them fall – but unto Your Name be glory!

All who trust in Jesus yield – ever to His Name be glory! – Find in Him their help and shield – ever to Your Name be glory! O Israel, trust the Lord! He helps us evermore! Fear Him, obey His Word – ever to Your Name be glory!

5 God Wants the Truth

Read and meditate on John 4.23, 24.

The question of worship – true or false – is never very far from the question of truth. Talk about the one must perforce lead to talk about the other.

²³But now the day is coming when in truth and spirit they will worship God. For such the Father seeks to worship Him. ²⁴For God is Spirit, speaks His Word, and those who worship Him must do so, worshiping in Spirit and in truth."

- John 4.23, 24

Reflect

- 1. If this woman's worship was *false*, what does that suggest about the lifestyle she'd chosen in pursuit of that worship? Complete this prayer: Lord, people who worship false gods are simply wrong! And this means their lives...
- 2. What Jesus says in verse 23 sets aside both this woman's worship and the worship which Jews practiced in His day. How was this the case? Why? Only when we worship You, Lord Jesus, do we...
- 3. Twice in our passage, Jesus says that worship must be "in spirit and truth." What does that mean? How can we know when our worship is in spirit and truth? Lord, I want my worship to be what the Father is seeking. Help me to...
- 4. In a very real sense, Jesus draws us into this conversation by challenging us to consider whether we are worshiping in the way God is seeking. John is good at doing this, as we have seen. He uses the story of Jesus to challenge his readers to reflect on the things that matter most as they become engaged with and enthralled by Jesus Himself. Do you think this suggests that asking an unbelieving friend to read the Gospel of John with you might be a good idea? Explain. Your Word, Lord, is living and powerful. I can...
- 5. What do we learn about true worship from these verses? What do we learn about God? What do you learn about yourself? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

"When God is said to be worshiped in truth (by the proper meaning of the word itself often expressed after the same manner), it ought to be understood that the Son too is worshiped. So, in the same way, the Spirit is also worshiped because God is worshiped in Spirit. Therefore the Father is worshiped both with the Son and with the Spirit, because the Trinity is worshiped." *Ambrose of Milan (333-397 AD)*

False worship leads to false living. True worship leads to true living, and can only be accomplished *in* the Spirit of God, *through* the Son of God, and *unto* our Father God. All other worship is false. How can you help someone examine his or her own worship?

Closing Prayer

I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.
O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave;
You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His,
And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
For His anger is but for a moment,
His favor is for life;
Weeping may endure for a night,
But joy comes in the morning.
Now in my prosperity I said,
"I shall never be moved."

Psalm 30.1-6

Psalm 30.1-9 (Madrid: Come, Christians, Join to Sing)
We will extol Your Name: You have lifted us, O Lord!
Our foes retreat in shame – You have lifted us, O Lord!
You healed us when we cried; safe shall our souls abide;
Hell's claim have You denied: You have lifted us, O Lord!

Lord, we extol Your Name: You have lifted us, O Lord! Thanks we with joy proclaim: You have lifted us, O Lord! Anger shall not prevail; grace will for us avail; Day frees us from travail: You have lifted us, O Lord!

Firmly in You we stand – You have lifted us, O Lord! – Kept by Your gracious hand: You have lifted us, O Lord! Lord, when You hide Your face, I cry to You for grace; Living, I'll sing Your praise: You have lifted us, O Lord!

6 Surprise!

Read and meditate on John 4.25, 26. The woman builds her own bridge to Jesus, and He leads her onto it.

²⁵The woman said to Him, "I know that He is coming, the Messiah (Who would be the Christ). He will explain and make us see all things." ²⁶Said Jesus to her, "I am He."

- John 4.25, 26

Reflect

- 1. The woman indicates some knowledge of the coming Messiah. But the Samaritans only used the books of Moses in their religion. Where in the first five books of the Bible would they have learned about the Messiah? Complete the following brief prayer: Lord, I need to know Your Word better. Help me...
- 2. How did this woman think about the Messiah? What was her understanding of what Messiah would do? Lord, I'm quite sure the people I know have heard about Jesus, but...
- 3. What did this woman get right about Messiah? What was she missing? How could you discover what the people you know understand about Jesus? Lord, I want to make You clear to the people in my Personal Mission Field, but first...
- 4. What Jesus literally said to this woman, and in this order, was, "I AM, the One speaking to you." What was Jesus saying? What has John told us thus far about Jesus that can support this claim? Lord Jesus, You are I AM! Oh, Lord, let me know...
- 5. Do you think it's possible that our understanding of Jesus is not as clear, comprehensive, or full as it ought to be? Why or why not? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed from questions 1-4.

Summary

"How is it that the Samaritans expected Christ's coming, since they only acknowledged the books of Moses? Their expectation came from the writings of Moses themselves.... Jacob prophesies of Christ, 'The scepter shall not depart from Judah nor the ruler's staff from between his feet until he comes to whom it belongs, and he is the expectation of nations.' And Moses says, 'The Lord your God shall raise up a prophet from the midst of you, of your brothers." Augustine (354-430 AD)

Everyone has some knowledge of God (Rom. 1.18-21). Most people suppress the true knowledge of God and substitute for it a god of their own making, to satisfy and quell the voice within them that keeps longing for God. Most people have some knowledge about Jesus, but usually it's not correct. Jesus *gradually* led this woman to the true knowledge of Himself, and we must be as patient as He when it comes to making Him known. Do you pray for the lost people you know? How can you do that, beginning today?

Closing Prayer

Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds. Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains; Your judgments *are* a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast. How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

Psalm 36.5-9

Psalm 36.5-9 (*Landas: My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*) Your lovingkindness, Lord, is great, it reaches heav'n above; Your faithfulness mounts to the skies, and keeps us in Your love. Your righteousness like mountains high and judgment like the deep Preserve Your creatures one and all and in Your mercy keep.

How precious is Your love, O Lord; we shelter in Your wings. We drink refreshment to the full from Your abundant springs. You give us freely of Your grace, we drink it with delight; Life's fountain is with You, O Lord, in Your light we see light.

7 Step by Painful Step

Read and meditate on John 4.16-26.

Jesus wanted this woman to know the living water that springs forth to everlasting life. He wanted her to know the gift of God – His Spirit. So He had to make Himself known to her, which He did only gradually and somewhat painfully. But always patiently and graciously.

¹⁶Said Jesus to her, "Call your husband; go and get him, and come here." 17 She answered, "Oh, I have no husband." Jesus said, "Now you have answered well by saying that you do not have a husband; this is true, as you have said, 18 for you have had five husbands, true it is, and he is not your husband whom you now have." 19 She said, "I perceive that You, Sir, are a prophet. ²⁰All our fathers at this mountain worshiped, but You argue that Jerusalem is where one ought to go to worship God." 21 Then Jesus said, "This know: an hour comes when, not at this mountain, nor *Jerusalem will God be worshiped.* ²²For you worship what you do not know; but we know what we worship. For salvation, free and full, is from the Jews. ²³But now the day is coming when in truth and spirit they will worship God. For such the Father seeks to worship Him. ²⁴For God is Spirit, speaks His Word, and those who worship Him must do so, worshiping in Spirit and in truth." ²⁵The woman said to Him, "I know that He is coming, the Messiah (Who would be the Christ). He will explain and make us see all things." ²⁶Said Jesus to her, "I am He."

- John 4.16-26

Reflect

- 1. Outline Jesus' step-by-step approach to making Himself known to this woman. What did He do first? Next? After that? Complete this prayer: Help me, Lord, to see the people in my life as people who need You, whether they are nonbelievers or...
- 2. How can you see that Jesus was *gracious* with this woman? What can you learn from Him about being gracious toward the people in your life? I want to be an agent of Your grace, Lord, and I need Your help to...
- 3. Who was in control of this conversation? How can you see that? Do you think you could learn to lead a conversation like this? Why or why not? *Teach me to be sensitive to Your leading, Lord, so that...*
- 4. Jesus did not *begin* by introducing Himself as the Messiah. He worked His way toward that revelation. Along the way, how did He prepare this woman for that revelation? How did He challenge her *settled* assumptions about life, religion, and so forth? Why did He do that? *What is the most important lesson you want me to learn, Lord, about...*

5. What does it mean for you to be, like Jesus, a *seeker* of the people in your Personal Mission Field? A *sower*? A *servant*? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

Summary

"Step by step he brought and placed her at the highest level. At first, she saw him as a thirsty person, then as a Jew, then a prophet, and afterwards as God. As he was thirsting, she was persuading him; as he was a Jew, she loathed him; as he was a person of learning, she made enquiry of him; in his being a prophet, she was rebuked by him; as he was the Messiah, she worshiped him." *Ephrem the Syrian 306-373 AD*)

Jesus has commanded us to make disciples as we are going about in the daily activities and duties of our everyday lives (Matt. 28.18-20). We need to *prepare* for *demonstrating* Christ's love and *talking with others* about Him. How do you prepare each day? What opportunities for showing Christ to others will you have today?

Closing Prayer

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people *shall be* volunteers
In the day of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

. . .

The LORD *is* at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill *the places* with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.

Psalm 110.2, 3, 5-7

Psalm 110.3-7 (Aurelia: The Church's One Foundation)
Filled with the Spirit's power, in holy robes of love,
From early morning's hour, they serve their Lord above.
Christ reigns a priest forever, the King of Righteousness,
And King of Peace Who ever His chosen ones will bless.

The Lord at Your right hand, Lord, in wrath shall shatter kings, When judgment by His strong Word He to the nations brings. Then, all His foes defeated, He takes His hard-won rest, In glorious triumph seated with us, redeemed and blessed!

Questions for reflection or discussion

- 1. Explain how Jesus was both firm and gracious in this conversation with the woman at the well.
- 2. This woman was important to Jesus. How important to Jesus are the people in your Personal Mission Field? How important are they to you?
- 3. What is the "gift of God"? Does everyone need this gift? Why or why not?
- 4. What would you say are the keys to sustaining a conversation about Jesus?
- 5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 4.16-26? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

Items for prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at www.ailbe.org to learn more.

We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.