

1. Irony

- a. Disciples’ Dismay (27) A rabbi alone w/ a shameful woman!
- b. Woman’s Wonder (28-30)
 - i. Left her pot
 - ii. Went to the men! She hid in the day and yet bee-lined to the very ones who could or did revile her! Ro. 9:11 not ashamed of Jesus!
 - iii. She proclaims Messiah in a smart way “Come see a man who” knows all about my life. Cf. 1:46 “Come see.”
 - iv. She was convincing as they came to Jesus.
 - v. I’d like to point out that v. 14 reads (in Greek): the water I shall give will become a fountain of water “leaping” up into everlasting life. She left her water pot and exclaimed to those who ostracized her... Two points:
 1. First: She was excited. Emotion may have had her leave her water pot but it didn’t stop her from seeking verification – even from those who opposed her!
 2. Second: She was effected. Emotions cannot transform but they can motivate. Emotions come and go and thus cannot be relied upon for weight i.e. verification. Salvation needs verification.
- c. Salvation for Samaritans (39-42)
 - i. For Jesus to lodge there, eating Samaritan food and teaching Samaritans (v. 40) would be roughly equivalent to defying segregation in the United States during the 1950s or apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s—shocking, extremely difficult, somewhat dangerous. The Jesus of the Gospels is more concerned with people than with custom¹
 - ii. Here and nowhere else in John’s Gospel does Jesus blatantly affirm that He is the Messiah.
- d. Honor @ Home? (43-45)
 - i. Why would honor at home be ironic?
 - ii. Our tendency is skeptical of hometown success. Familiarity often breeds contempt.
 - iii. But John seems to make Jesus’ acceptance an ironic thing by pointing out Jesus’ proclamation of such (44).

2. Urgency

- a. Appointments
 - i. “He needed to go through Samaria” (v. 4).
 - ii. He went to where he’d least be honored (46).
- b. Amazement (32-35)
 - i. Back to the unnamed woman in Samaria: She was so amazed at Jesus’ knowledge she dropped her pot and darted into town to face certain shame in order to get affirmation and/or evangelize.
 - ii. Disciples were amazed as mentioned earlier.
 - iii. Also, perplexed at the ‘food’ of which Jesus spoke. (32)
 1. That which feeds the soul is purpose.
 2. Nothing is as fulfilling as doing the work for which God has purposed you.
 - iv. Aside from the ‘food’ metaphor, Jesus used a related one regarding harvest. (35-38)

¹ Keener, C. S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament* (Jn 4:39–42). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

“Words, Witness, and Works” (Jn. 4:27-54)

1. Jesus says the harvest is nigh. “Harvest was still four months away. But Jesus refers to another kind of harvest that’s right now—a harvest of converts: “Lift up your eyes.” See, the Samaritans are coming! The woman that Jesus had been talking to was leading them out to see Jesus for themselves.”²
 2. Reaping such yields wages
 3. Sowing was done before the reaping and thus obviously shares in wages – which “gather fruit for eternal life” (36).
- c. Affirmation (39-42)
- i. They believed because of the woman’s testimony “He told me all I ever did.” Cf. 25 and her expectation of Messiah.
 - ii. They believed in Jesus’ Words! Her testimony led them to Him!
3. Sympathy (43-54)
- a. Situation: (46)
- i. We noted the irony of His being honored at home town.
 - ii. Partly or greatly due to witness and word of His early Galilean miracle and untold actions at Jerusalem feast.
 - iii. A royal official of sorts of Herod Antipas seeks Jesus and implored Him to come and heal his son.
- b. Reply: (48)
- i. Though it’s true Jesus had sympathy for all sinners, we see him enact such seemingly disappointed (48).
 - ii. 2 Thes. 2:9-10 offers a warning about such a need for the sensational/emotional demands.
 - iii. I doubt this man was looking for gratuitous signs as his son was at the point of death (47).
 - iv. Perhaps this is John contrasting the belief of the Samaritans who needed only the word of testimony and the Galileans who needed signs. There was no miracle provided for the Samaritans save for Jesus’ omniscient prophesy. Note that John didn’t consider that as a ‘sign’ (54).
- c. Reaction: (50-54)
- i. The man believed and went back home.
 - ii. The man heard the news and inquired of the time so as to compare Jesus’ claim.
 - iii. He and his family believed.

“Words, Witness, and Works” (Jn. 4:27-54)

Jesus didn’t stay long where He got too much attention and He visited people and places where He’d not typically be accepted. Seems counterintuitive to us. But to God, such is necessary. Paradoxically, those from whom He came needed more evidence to believe in Him, whereas those who were not His own readily embraced Him. No matter where Jesus’ word, witness, or works are found; salvation is nigh. And those who believe in Him will find it!

² Gundry, R. H. (2010). [*Commentary on the New Testament: Verse-by-Verse Explanations with a Literal Translation*](#) (p. 369). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.