

Come Follow Me
Elo Viz Production
Week 7
John 2-4

There are 3 great stories we will study this week that will highlight one very important principle. I'd like to recap those stories then we will discuss the principle in detail.

We will start with the woman at the well. Jesus left Judaea, and departed to Galilee. But He said that He needed to go through Samaria. He has a divine appointment to keep. This was unusual for that day. If you remember the Jew and the Samaritans did not like each other. When they were released from Babylon to return home and rebuild the temple, remember the Samaritans wanted to help them. But the Jews refused and said that they alone would build their temple. The Samaritans decided to build their own rival temple on Mt Gerizim. The Samaritans were heathens that worshiped idols. This is important to know because of what Christ says to the woman.

“Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.” (John 4:6)

In their time back then this was 12 o'clock noon. This is mentioned because the woman typically did not draw water at this time of day. They would do it in the mornings or in the evening. This woman came to the well at noon to avoid all the other women because of her reputation.

“7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the **gift** of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water**.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never **thirst**; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water **springing up** into **everlasting life**.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.” (John 4:7-15)

Even at this point she still doesn't really understand what Jesus is offering her. She is still thinking of physical thirst. And this sounds great. You mean I will never be thirsty again. Yes, please give me some of this Living water. So Jesus exposes her truth to really force the understanding.

“16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband.”

“17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a [prophet](#).

20 Our fathers worshipped in [this](#) mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye know not what you worship: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall [worship](#) the Father in spirit and in [truth](#): for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 *For unto such hath God promised his Spirit. And they who worship him, must worship in spirit and in truth. (JST John 4:26)*

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that [Messias](#) cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will [tell](#) us all things. (John 4-16-25)

She is unusual for a Samaritan. The Samaritans did not worship the God of the Jews. But this woman has a special testimony that is not of her custom. I know the Messiah cometh, she says. She knows that He will tell them all things. The pieces are starting to fit together for her. Perhaps she was the only person in Samaria that knew of Christ and what He was come to do. Jesus would use her to spread His gospel to the people living in Sychar. And it only takes one line and you can just see her light up when He tells her:

“26 Jesus saith unto her, [I](#) that speak unto thee am *He*.” (John 4:26)

“28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.” (John 4:28-30)

A whole sermon could be written on these last few verses. Especially about how she left her waterpot. We don't have the time today to look at that, but I hope you will ponder and dig deep on that principle.

The next account is in the same chapter:

“And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at [Capernaum](#).”

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judæa into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son **liveth**. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told *him*, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and **himself** believed, and his whole house.” (John 4:46-53)

This encounter happened in Galilee, the same place where he performed his first miracle. He was at a wedding, most scholars believe it was a family member or a close friend that was getting married. It was a custom of that day to have a huge party which included a feast. It just so happened that they ran out of wine and Jesus's mother went to Jesus and told him of this situation. I love Jesus's response.

“**Woman**, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.” (John 2:4)

How is it that Mary knew that He could do this? I know it tells us that this was Jesus's first miracle but maybe it was His first public miracle. There has to be an explanation how Mary knew what to do and what He could do. It doesn't say that she even responded to His comment she only turns to the servants and says “Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it” (John 2:5)

“6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the **purifying** of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. (This is about 30 gallons of water per barrel)

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. (There had to be no question about adding anything to these barrels- the water filled literally to the top that nothing else could be added to them)

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now. (John 2:6-10)

These stories all have a common theme that many in the church and many out of the church do not and will not consider or accept. I can't tell you how many times I have heard it from latter day saints from the pulpit or in private that God will only give you what you need. This belief in the

church is not consistent with the Jesus that we read about in the New Testament. Each one of these 3 stories teaches us a great lesson about Christ. In all three these people needed something. The women at the well needed water, the noble man needed his child healed, the wedding party needed wine. And in each case we see a miracle of outstanding proportions. Could Jesus have given the women at the well water to drink to quench her thirst? Absolutely. Even without anything to draw it from the well he could have filled her waterpot to overflowing without any effort. Could Jesus have offered the noble man medicine to help his son? He probably knew the exact remedy that would have offered relief and eventual healing. Could Jesus have sent his disciple to get wine for the party or even privately turned a small amount of water to wine without making a scene? For sure, He could have: but He didn't. He took six 30 gallon stone barrels filled to the very top and gave them 180 gallons of the best wine they had ever tasted. I'm not sure how many people were at this party but 180 gallons is more wine than any party could consume in that day. Which means they would have had a ton leftover to sell or share after the party was over. So this idea that He will only give us what we desperately need is laid to rest with these accounts of the Master. When we seek something, when we need something and even at times when we want something Jesus is the answer and He is able to give gifts far more grand and a lot more generously than our minds can even begin to conceive.

To the wedding party: a ton of the best wine.

To the Noble man: Instant healing of his son, in that very hour

To the women at the well: Living water, that whosoever drinketh shall never thirst.

And to you? Well, that is entirely up to you.

Jesus taught:

7 ¶ **Ask**, and it shall be **given** you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that **seeketh** findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask **bread**, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, **being evil**, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

(Matthew 7:7-11)

That promise is from the lips of the Master Himself. But I hear you, I know. I have felt the same way. But I have asked and He hasn't answered. I have wanted things and the heavens were silent to my request. Well, this is what I have come to understand. Notice who Jesus performs these miracles for.

The women at the well didn't know that He was the Christ. But she did know Him, and she looked to His coming. She had the faith to be His mouthpiece for the people of Sychar.

The Noble man heard what Jesus had done and without any reservation believed that if He could heal others that He could certainly heal his son. It says specifically "The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken and he went his way" (John 4:50)

But the clearest picture of the point I am trying to make is the wedding party. It was His mother that asked Him to turn the water to wine. Someone who loved Him so much and the woman whom He loved. This is the relationship which we seek. We need to love Jesus as much as Mary loved Him. We need to believe Him as much as the noble man did. And we need to seek Him as much as the women at the well did. A casual prayer or an occasional thought wont do in the scope of our eternal salvation.

When they asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment he responded:

“Thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy **mind**.

38 This is the first and great **commandment**.

39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the **law** and the prophets.”

(Matthew 22:37-40)

If this is the relationship which you seek with the creator of the heavens and the Earth it will take all your effort to forsake the world and follow Him. That is what He asked of His disciples then and it is what He asks of His disciples today. Not that we are to be perfect but that we are to be different. That we seek to see the world through His eyes and to heal and bless others with His hands.

“Whosoever will come after me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow** me. **For** whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall **lose** his **life** for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. (Mark 8:34-35)**

“For **God so **loved** the **world**, that he **gave** his **only** begotten **Son**, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have **everlasting life**. (John 3:16)**

Of this truth I testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.