

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 13, 2015

This Week's Focus: Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest need of our hearts: forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with our loving Creator.

This Week's Text: John 4:1-14

"What Jesus is saying is, 'If you put the bucket of your soul into any other cause more than my cause, into any other relationship more than your relationship with me, into any hope, into any other rest, into any other beauty than me, you're going to die of thirst.'" **Tim Keller**

"This thirst is not for natural water, but for God, for eternal life in the presence of God; and the thirst is met not by removing this aching desire but by pouring out the Spirit. Indeed, this water will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **D. A. Carson**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Why do you think Jesus did not personally perform baptisms? Reference 1 Corinthians 1:11.
- According to verses 1-3, why did Jesus leave Judea for Galilee? What ultimately dictated Jesus' decision to move on?
- What route did Jesus take on his way toward Galilee? Why does John write that Jesus "had to pass through Samaria"? Was the path through Samaria the only geographic choice he had? Did Jesus simply choose the route through Samaria because it was the shortest route? Do you view your plans as divine appointments and yourself as an appointed ambassador of the gospel?
- Why did the Jews "have no dealings with Samaritans"? Explain how Jesus demolished cultural taboos in his interaction with the Samaritan woman without sinning. Reference 1 Thessalonians 5:22. How can we similarly break down cultural barriers to declare and demonstrate gospel?

- What conversation does Jesus have with the woman at the well? How does Jesus steer the discussion from physical need to spiritual need? Why? How can we do the same in our conversations with family, friends, co-workers, etc.?
- What is the living water, the spring of water that wells up to eternal life that Jesus offered this woman and still offers to all people today? Discuss how Jesus' water is *permanent, abundant, and sufficient*.
- Discuss why Jesus is relevant for both the moral/religious (Nicodemus) and the irreligious (Samaritan woman).
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?