

John 4

Jesus' mission

Reading @ 2 levels

- What can we learn from Jesus' words and actions?
- What does John want us to learn from this passage?

Context of Passage: Jesus' personal encounters in John

- Chapter 1 – Jesus and Nathaniel - “you **believe** because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that” (1:50).
- Chapter 2 – Jesus and his mother - “his disciples put their **faith** in him” (2:11).
- Chapter 3 – Jesus and Nicodemus – “but to all who **believe**” (3:16).

John's Purpose

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(John 21:30-31)

Structure John 4:1-42

- Jesus and the Samaritan Woman have a conversation (4:1-26) – “I am the one of whom you speak” (26)
- Jesus and the disciples have a conversation (4:27-38) – “Others have done the hard work and you have reaped the benefits” (38)
- Jesus meets the Samaritans (4:39-42) – “We no longer **believe** just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world” (42)

Jesus Crosses Barriers

- Racial and Social (4:9)
- Gender (4:7)
- Ethical (4:6, 17-18)
- Religious (4:20)

Jesus associates with the marginalised

- Surprise of the disciples (4:27)

Jesus offers her something

- Dignity (4:7)
- Living Water (4:10, 13)
- A mission (4:4:28)
- Dignity (4:38)

Jesus Challenges

- The Woman (4:16-18)
- The disciples (4:27, 38)

So what does this mean for us?

- A challenge to cross barriers
- A challenge to risk having solidarity with the marginalised
- A challenge to offer the message!
- A challenge to recognise our prejudices and be ready to change