

## The Will and Work of the Father John 4:43-54

*“Things that matter least must never come about at the expense  
of things that matter most” Goethe*

### Literary Structure of the Passage

Narration :1-26

Exposition :31-38

Demonstration :39-42

**Illustration 4:43-54** Two Sociological Stories: The Rich and the Poor

- I. The Prologue 4:1-6
  - A. Location
  - B. Symbolic Connection of Water  
John 3:5, 4:10-15, 7:38, 19:34
  - C. Time table at the Water table
- II. The Dialogue :7-26
  - A. The Cultural Temporal Issue :7-12  
Jacob’s well Gen 33:18-20
  - B. The Central Eternal Issue :13-20
    1. Spiritual Issue 13-15  
OT background to the use of Water  
Jer. 2:13, Zec. 14:8; 47:9 Isa. 12:3, 49:10, 44:3, 55:1
    2. Moral Issue: 16-18  
Got to get people lost before you get them saved  
Bad news- All have sinned, Rom. 3:23  
More Bad News-The wages of sin is death, Rom 6:23  
Good News Christ-Died for your sin, Rom. 3:20-22  
More Good News-Believe and have eternal life, Rom. 4
  - C. The Christological Issue:19-26  
The Woman -You are a Prophet  
The Lord - “I am” He: the Messiah

People today are afraid that if God knew He would not love. He knows and loves (Simon Magus Acts 8/ Saul the Christian killer Acts 9)

John 3:16 - Jesus Loved the world- He knew and knows what we are

John 4:7-16 -The Woman at the well

John 8:10-11 - The Woman caught in adultery

The water of Eternal Life is a gift. It is FREE  
John 7:37, Rev. 21:6, 22:17  
Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 4:1-5

Jesus is the one who is full of grace and truth (1:14)  
Jesus offers grace upon grace (1:16)  
Jesus is the one who speaks the truth in love. He is God 1:1-18

Grace declares the inexhaustible greatness and inestimable benevolence of our Great & Glorious God.  
Human helplessness and depravity provide the perfect backdrop for the Grace of God to shine forth.

### **Definition of Grace**

Grace is ...Unmerited favor  
Undeserved blessing  
Unearned beneficence  
Unwarranted love

### **Description of Grace**

Ephesians 2:4-7: But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8-9: By grace you have been saved through faith not by works lest any man should boast, it is a gift of God.”

The Object is Jesus	John 1:29	Lamb of God
The Action required	John 3:15	Look and Live
The Consequence	John 4, 5:24	Eternal Life

The Grace of God is  
\* Unconditional - Eph 2:8-9  
\* Unmerited - Rom 4  
\* Unending - John 5:24

We have seen Jesus the master teacher exhibit and explain both grace and truth in an evangelistic message. John now provides (perhaps he was an eyewitness?) a look at the response of three groups of people to the will and work of the Lord. John weaves the responses and results of the ministry of Jesus through a series of dialogues.

A. The Woman at the Well - Outcast of the City :25-26  
She learns and believes that Jesus is the savior -I am... He  
(NB Contrast between physical and spiritual water)

- B. The Disciples of Jesus (Men) Wonder- Who is this Woman, What Goes on with this Woman, and Why is Jesus talking to this Woman? :27
- C. The Woman Departs to Proclaim (Preach) Messiah to the Men of the City :28-29  
This is not the Christ, is it? (Form that allows her to speak without seeming pushy)
- D. The Men of the City Hear Her and Go to Him- Jesus :30
- E. The Disciples (Men) Focus on Food :31  
(NB Contrast between physical and spiritual food)
- F. The Messiah Explains the Purpose of Life and the Possibilities & Potential of Ministry: 32-38
  - 1. The Explanation :32-38
    - Priorities :32-34
    - The Disciples Wonder- Jesus Works. (The Sons work is the Fathers will!)
    - Perspective :35
    - Be ready in season and out of season- But it is always a season.
    - Partners- Team work :36-38
    - Some Sow- Some reap (Some share truth, some defend truth- Apologetics is a sub theme of Evangelism. Some have gift of Evang. But all are to do it. )
  - 2. The Effect :39-42
    - Many Believe by the Word & Testimony of the Woman & Miracle of Jesus :39
    - Many More Believe by the Word & Testimony of Jesus to the Men :42

#### Points to Ponder

- 1. All people are lost (Bad Women, Good Men, Jews or Samaritans)
- 2. Jesus Alone Saves if we Receive/ Believe in Him 1:12, 2:21, 3:16,4:26, 4:41-42
- 3. The Gift is a Free Gift- Water of life without cost 4:10, Rev. 21,22
- 4. The Work is Costly. It requires an eternal perspective and temporal performance

*Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important  
is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant. S. Covey*

## Introduction

Narrative is the most prevalent genre in the bible. There are many examples of epistles, dramas, psalms and proverbs as well as fantastic apocalyptic episodes in the bible. The bible as a whole and in most of its parts is a story and story is told as narrative.

A story can be simple or complex. Stories can be linked together and build off each other and form a meta-story: a story beyond the story and thus a meta-narrative. It is such the case as we look into the gospels.

### Theological Context

Nicodemus- A man, Jewish, Rich, Religious orthodox, powerful, socially connected

Woman at well- A women, Samaritan Poor, immoral, powerless, social outcast

Both need what Jesus has to offer- water of life- eternal life

Men from Sychar come to believe-- Disciples don't understand the work or will of God

### Narrative Context

\*Narrative markers

Stories contain plot, character, location and situation- tension and resolution

\*Geographical markers

JC had been in Capernaum 2:12 Now JC heals a boy in Capernaum 4:46

## **The Healing of the Rich (Story # 1) 4:43-54**

The Place

The Players

The Plot

The Predicament

The Person

The Power

The Prescription

PAT

Our life will include vexing vicissitudes. However.....

We need faith to ask Him (Philippians 4:6)

We need faith to accept His answer. (Heb 12:1-2)