

Gospel of John (lesson 11)

John 4:1-26

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

The response to baptism was growing and the reports were getting distorted. Jesus had to get his mission back on track. He stopped baptizing and left for Galilee. As we see in the following verses, they had to travel through Samaria, a place they did not want to go through.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, **“Will you give me a drink?”** 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Only the socially outcast would go to the well at noon, the hottest part of the day. Early and late in the day, the well would be busy with women getting water.

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[do not use dishes Samaritans have used])

10 Jesus answered her, **“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”**

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, **“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

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15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Jesus knows how to get his message through to you. She is shocked and quickly changes the subject.

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

{25 The isha says to him, I have da’as that Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach is coming, the one being called the Messiah. When Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach comes, he will proclaim to us everything. [Orthodox Jewish Bible]}

26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

{26 Yehoshua says to her, Ani Hu (I am He), the one speaking to you. [Orthodox Jewish Bible]}

The phrase Ani Hu is as close to saying I AM, the answer that God gave Moses at the burning bush, as you can get in the Hebrew.