

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Living Water

Part of the Spring Preaching Series

John 4:1-42 (selected)

Robert L. Watt

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(And Happy Father's Day!)

Living Water

Introduction:

- John's gospel and his perspective is unique in many ways.
- Written a generation later than the other "synoptic" gospels.
- 90% of the material is unique to his gospel.
- John borrowed heavily from Isaiah for many quotes/themes.
- Selects only 7 miracles (6 are unique). Why?

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John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

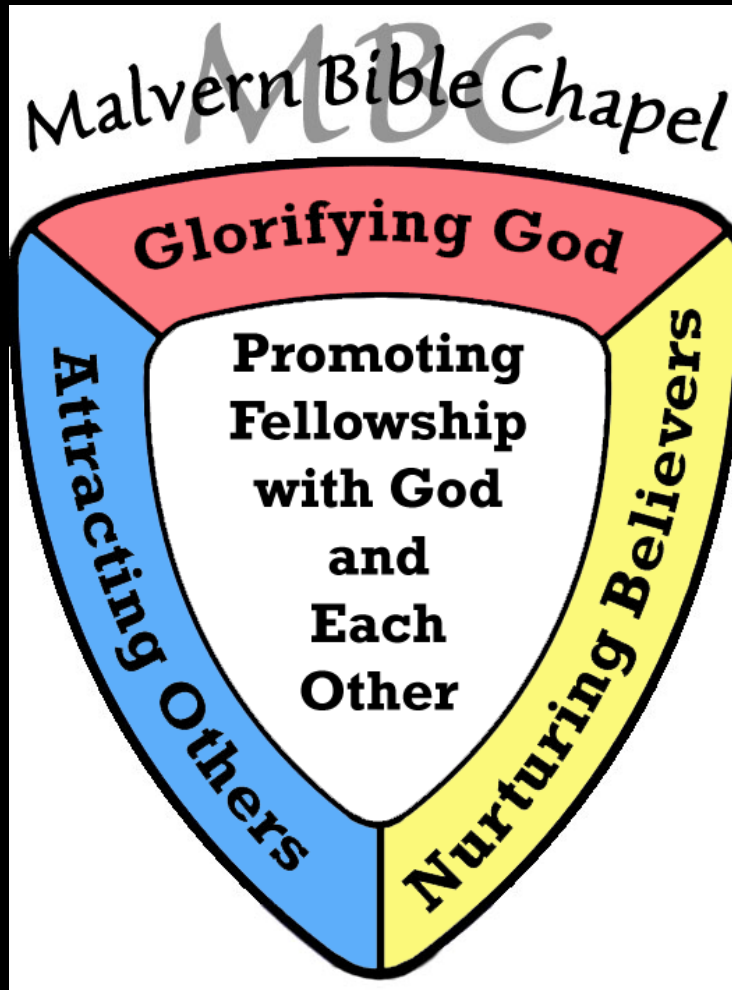
³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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Introduction:

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- 90% of the material is unique to his gospel.
- John borrowed heavily from Isaiah for many quotes/themes.
- Selects only 7 miracles (6 are unique). Why? (Jn. 20:30-31).
- Records 7 "I am" statements (perhaps 1 more in text, v.26).
- Teaches 7 principles of evangelism in our text today. This is where we will primarily focus our attention today.
- Evangelism is also reflected in our MBC logo which includes "Attracting Others". This will serve as a good review for us.

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John 4:1-6 (NKJV)

- 4 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.
- ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

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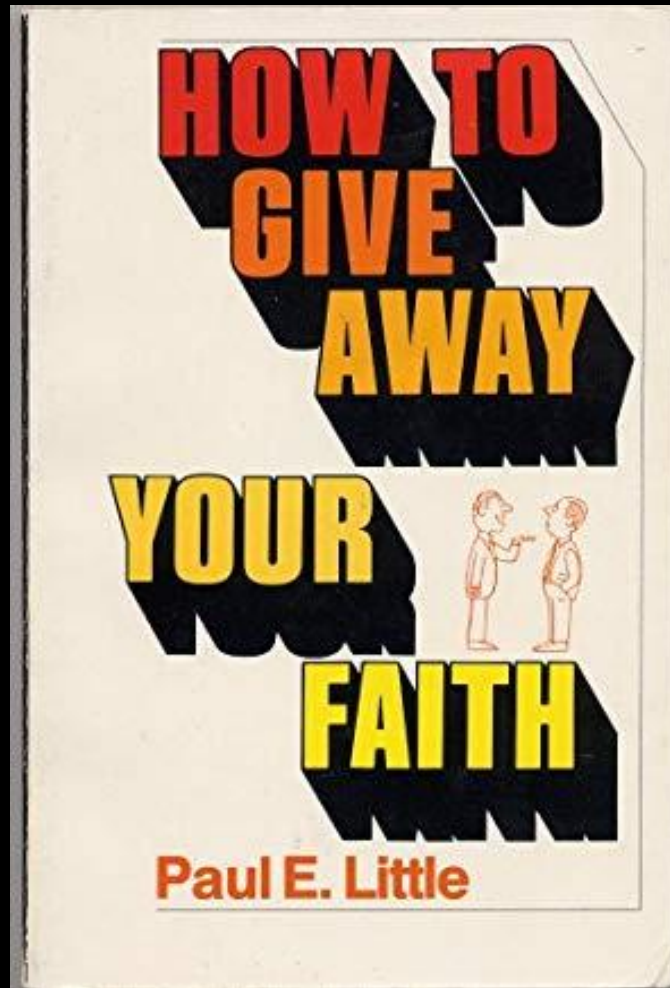


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Body of Lesson:

What are the seven principles of evangelism presented in our text today? (adapted from *How To Give Away Your Faith* by Paul E. Little, 1973)

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Body of Lesson:

What are the seven principles of evangelism presented in our text today? (adapted from *How To Give Away Your Faith* by Paul E. Little, 1973)

1. We must seek out contact with non-believers socially (4:1-6).

- Too often we do not have very much contact with non-believers.
- Jesus couldn't keep the gift of eternal life He had just for Himself!
- Fishers of men (Mk. 1:17) must go to where the fish are found.
- Being separate from sinners is not the same as being isolated.
- Jesus needed to leave Judea (south) and go to Galilee (north).
- He did not take the usual route but instead went via Samaria.

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MAP OF ISRAEL IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



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John 4:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

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2. We must establish a bridge for communications (4:7-8).

- Jesus was tired and thirsty, and sat down at the well. He needed a drink of water.
- The Samaritan woman came with her water pot to the well to get water for her needs.
- They both had a need for water, and Jesus used that as a bridge to open their conversation.
- Although it was noon and Jesus knew that she was only coming there at that time because she was an immoral woman of the streets and wanted to avoid contact with the other moral women who would come later in the day, he didn't berate her.
- He met her where she was with her need.

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John 4:9-15 (NKJV)

- ⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.
- ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”
- ¹¹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

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John 4:9-15 (NKJV) (cont.)

- ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
- ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

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3. We must arouse interest to stimulate further discussion (4:9-15).

- Jesus asked her for a drink of water. It was not socially acceptable for Jesus (a Jewish man and a rabbi) to speak to a Samaritan woman.
- The Samaritans were not pure Jews—they were half-breed descendants of the Assyrians imported to occupy the land and intermarry with the remnants of the sons of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh).
- Their temple to worship God was on Mt. Gerizim, not far from Sychar.
- When the remnant of real Jews from Judah were later taken into captivity to Babylon, and then released 70 years later at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and their temple to worship God.
- Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans for >500 years until the time of Jesus.
- Then Jesus stimulated further conversation by saying that if she knew the gift of God and who it was that she was talking to, she would have asked Him for a drink of living water! Jesus was very accepting of her, and He didn't turn her off with His spiritual bait—it worked! She wanted a drink of that living water!
- Her further questions and His responses about never thirsting again and getting a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life definitely had her attention now!

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whoever drinks of the water
I will give him will NEVER thirst again

John 4:14

LIVING
WATER



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John 4:16-19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

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4. We must not go too far (4:16).

- Jesus left her hanging with the question about the living water. Her thirst was wetted for more, but she was not yet ready.
- She primarily just wanted to get out of going to the well every day, and not acknowledge her need of salvation for her sins!
- He changed the subject and asked her to call her husband.

5. We must not condemn (4:17-19).

- He knew all about her, and her immoral lifestyle and the fact that she had no husband right now, but had five previous husbands!
- Nevertheless Jesus did not condemn her, and He even commended her for telling the truth.
- See a similar situation with the woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8:11.)
- The woman recognized that Jesus was a prophet, not a judge.

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John 4:20-26 (NKJV)

- ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”
- ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

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John 4:20-26 (NKJV) (cont.)

²⁵ The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

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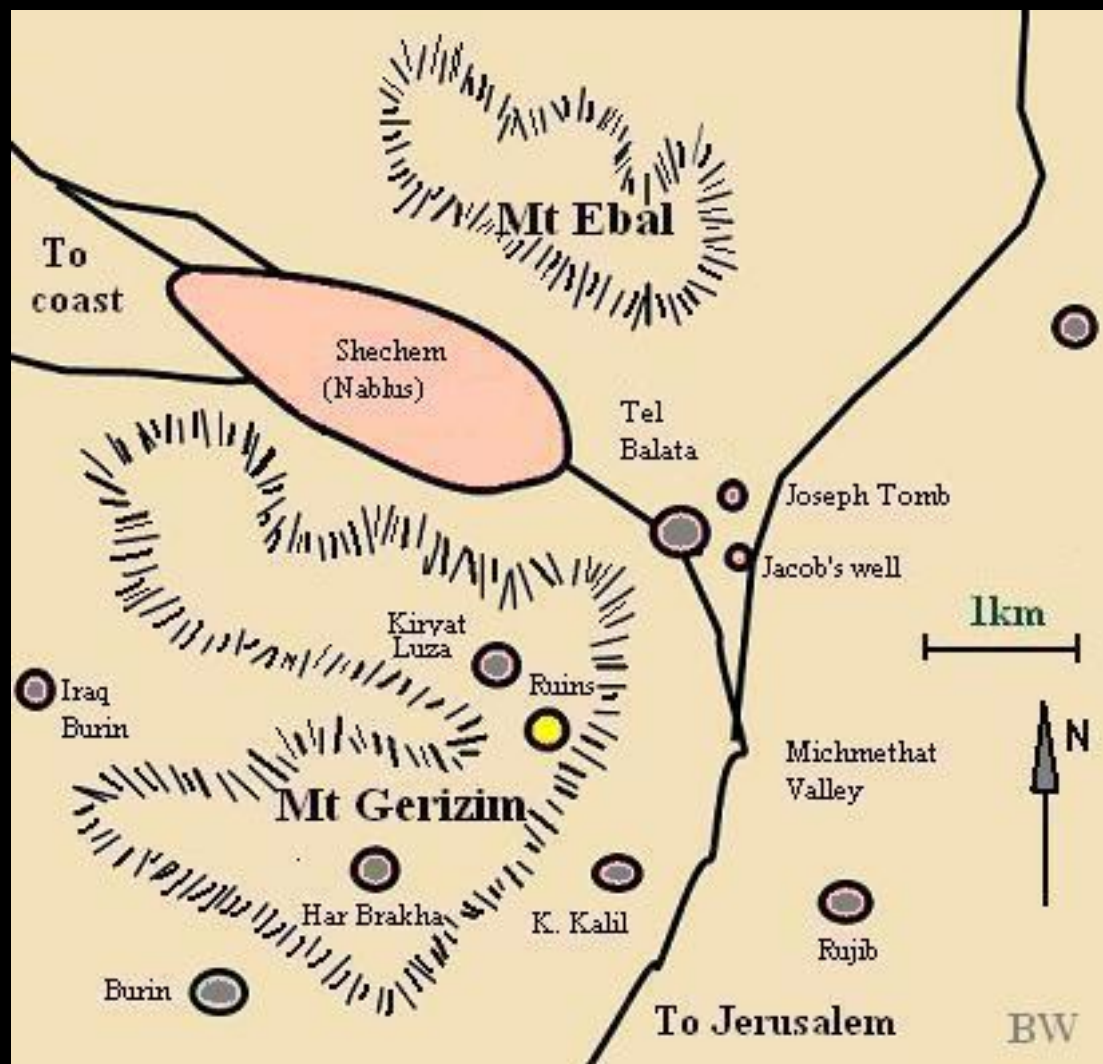
6. We must not get sidetracked (4:20-26).

- The woman seized on the opportunity to not talk about her immoral lifestyle and her sins, and instead she changed the subject to where the Samaritans and Jews should worship.
- The Samaritans for the last ~700 years had been worshipping at Mt. Gerizim, while the Jews for over ~1,000 years (since the time of David and Solomon), and more recently after their return from exile in Babylon (the last ~500 years) had sought to reestablish the worship of God at Jerusalem.
- Mt. Gerizim was looming above Jacob's well, and just across the natural amphitheater valley where the city of Shechem (modern Nablus) stood was Mt. Ebal.
- It was there that Joshua recited the blessings (Gerizim) and curses (Ebal) to the children of Israel—see Josh. 8:30-35.

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6. We must not get sidetracked (4:20-26) (cont).

- Jesus would not allow Himself to be distracted or sidetracked from the main question (it isn't where we worship or what church we attend, but it is who and how we worship).
- The woman and the other Samaritans didn't know the truth about salvation and why they should worship. That was a truth revealed to the Jews by their God and their promised Messiah. They were to worship in the spirit and in truth. The Samaritans were also waiting for the Messiah to reveal the truth to them.
- Finally Jesus revealed to her that He is the Messiah (v.26). In reality, this is another "I AM" statement (*He is* in italics, added by the translators). Later Jesus said that "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn. 14:6).
- At this point the conversation with the woman ended because the disciples returned. She left her water pot and she went into the city to witness to the men there about her new-found Messiah or Christ.

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I Am The Way
The Truth and The Life
No one comes to the Father
Except through me

JOHN 14.6 NKJV

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John 4:39-42 (NKJV)

³⁹ And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of His own word.

⁴² Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

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7. We must confront a person directly (4:39-42).

- We know that Jesus brought her to the point of making a decision to accept Him as her personal Savior because of her ensuing witness to others.
- She realized that He was the only way to God, He was the truth that she had been seeking for the emptiness of her life, and that only He could give her real life—the fountain of water springing up into everlasting life that she so desperately thirsted for!
- Others were attracted by her witness and also came to Jesus and heard the words of life directly from Him and also had their lives changed.

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OUR PRAYER.

living water

JOHN 7:38

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME,
AS SCRIPTURE HAS SAID,
RIVERS OF LIVING WATER
WILL FLOW FROM WITHIN THEM.

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Review:

These are the 7 principles of evangelism:

1. See and know non-Christians personally
2. Establish a mutual interest in conversation
3. Arouse a person's interest by life and word
4. Gear explanations to his/her receptiveness and readiness for more
5. Accept and even compliment rather than condemn
6. Stay on the track
7. Persevere to the final decision

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Application:

Now what are we going to do about these principles?

1. We know the answers to the questions that non-Christians are asking: so we can be assured!
2. We know the methods used to share the gospel with those we encounter: so we can be equipped!
3. We know the responses possible when sharing the gospel to the needy: so we can be prepared!
4. We know the results when the gospel is accepted by faith: so we can be encouraged!