

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #40

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

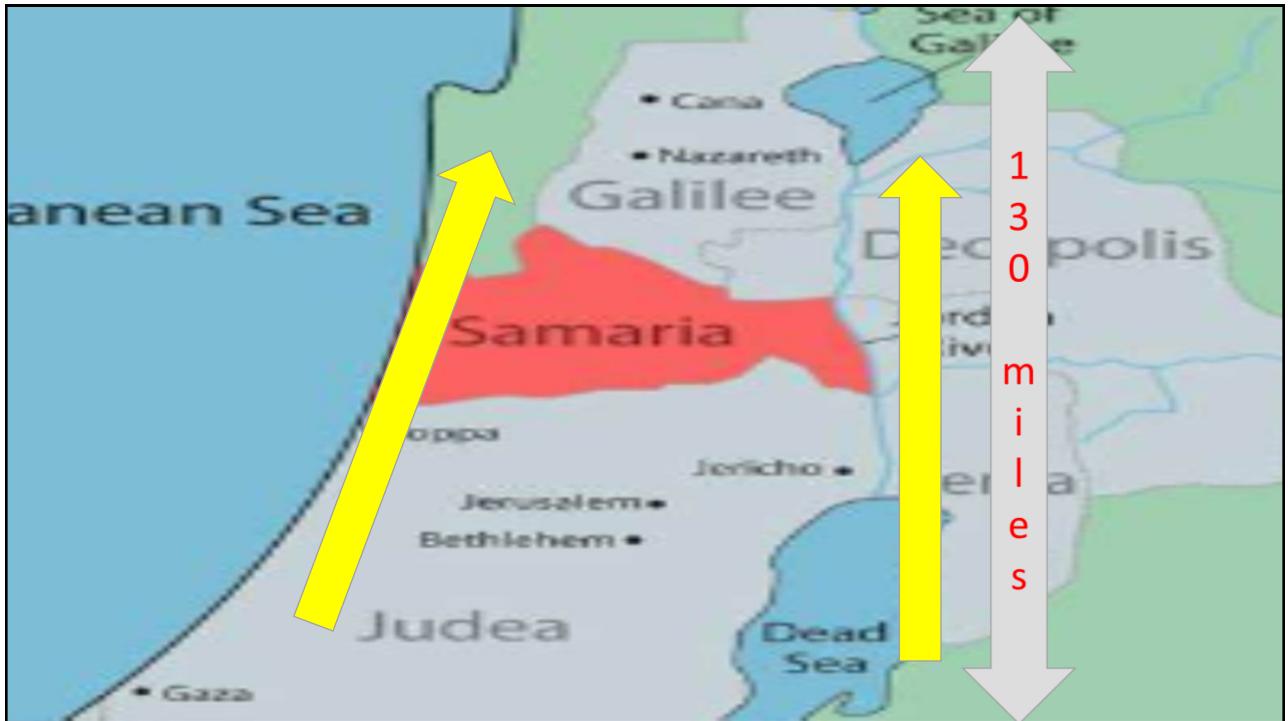
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The Gospel of John

- **John 4:4 And he had to pass through Samaria.**
- The above is not true on its face – Jesus did not have to pass through Samaria **UNLESS** John is referring to the spiritual necessity of the route and not just geography.
- Do not think that Jesus and his Disciples just happened to choose a path on which he would meet this rather anonymous woman, around whom John would write the longest narrative of the gospels.

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The Gospel of John

- **John 4:27** Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”
- “**Marveled**” is an interesting choice of words – in the Greek the word is **thou-mad’-zo** and it means more than just amazement.
- It conveys the idea of amazement and admiration – so what were the disciples admiring?

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- We are not told so we may guess if we want to – I think they were admiring his courage to go outside the cultural constraints on men talking to women.
- One of the reasons the men did not talk to women one-on-one in public was to avoid elevating the importance of women.
- Jesus had no such fear; that he would elevate the status of a woman – his concern was for her soul and indeed the souls of all in her village.

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- **28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people. 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”**
- Do you think she might be just a little excited? For her whole life she had heard people talking about and predicting the appearance of the Messiah.
- When she gets to the town, she no longer seeks to avoid people – she wants everyone to meet who she has met but given her status in the village caution is exercised.

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The Gospel of John

- If you look carefully, you will see she does not just tell the people of Sychar that she has met the long-awaited Messiah.
- No, she frames her witness in the form of a question - “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”
- She knows the people in town would frown on the very idea that a woman of her reputation would be the one to whom the Messiah would reveal himself. 😊

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Questions?

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