



Slowing Down Long Enough to Care
The B.L.E.S.S. Series – John 4:1-26
May 17, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-26

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷A woman from 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.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."



MAIN THEME

Listening is hard work. Most people don't truly listen—they wait. They wait to respond, to correct, or to say what they already planned to say. But if people don't feel heard, they won't care what you say next. And that matters—because listening is often where the gospel begins.

In John 4, Jesus models what it looks like to slow down and truly care. Though he was busy and facing growing opposition, he intentionally traveled through Samaria to meet one broken, overlooked woman. He stopped. He engaged. He listened.

This wasn't a quick interaction. Jesus patiently allowed the conversation to unfold. He didn't rush her, interrupt her, or force truth on her before she was ready to receive it. Instead, he listened with purpose—guiding her gently toward understanding her need for him.

Jesus also listened compassionately. He understood her background, her pain, and her spiritual blindness. Rather than becoming frustrated, he met her where she was and led her toward truth step by step.

Ultimately, Jesus shows us that meaningful gospel conversations don't start with talking—they start with listening. When we slow down long enough to care, we create space for God to work in powerful ways.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Listen Intentionally

John 4:1–10; Proverbs 18:13; James 1:19

- Why is it difficult to truly listen instead of just waiting to respond?
- What stands out about Jesus' intentional decision to go through Samaria?
- Who in your life needs you to slow down and listen to them?
- What distractions keep you from being fully present in conversations?

2. Listen Patiently

John 4:11–15; Ecclesiastes 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

- How did the woman initially respond to Jesus' offer of "living water"?
- Why is patience essential when talking with someone about spiritual truth?
- What happens when we try to rush people toward understanding?
- Who might God be calling you to walk with more patiently?

3. Listen Compassionately

John 4:16–18; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Romans 10:14

- How does understanding spiritual blindness change the way we view others?



- Why is it easy to become frustrated with people who don't understand the gospel?
- How does compassion shape the tone of your conversations?
- What would it look like to see people the way Jesus sees them?

4. Listen Purposefully

John 4:16–19; Psalm 139:1–4; Hebrews 4:13

- Why did Jesus bring up the woman's personal life?
- How did that moment help her begin to see her true need?
- What does it mean to listen with purpose rather than passively?
- How can you gently guide conversations toward spiritual truth?

5. Speak Boldly When the Time Is Right

John 4:25–26; Acts 4:29–31; Colossians 4:5–6

- Why is timing important when sharing the gospel?
- What gave Jesus the authority and clarity to speak directly?
- What fears keep you from speaking about your faith?
- When have you seen God open a door for you to speak boldly?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the example of Jesus, who slowed down long enough to truly care. Forgive us for the times we rush past people or fail to listen well. Teach us to be intentional, patient, and compassionate in our conversations. Help us to see others the way you see them and to create space for your truth to take root. Give us wisdom to listen well and courage to speak when the time is right. Use our lives to point others to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Proverbs 18:13 — The danger of answering before listening
- James 1:19 — Be quick to listen, slow to speak
- 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 — Spiritual blindness
- Romans 10:14–15 — The need to hear the gospel
- Colossians 4:5–6 — Speaking with wisdom and grace

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

B.L.E.S.S. — Eat Together

