

## Finding God in the Desert of Our Longings – Part 1

### John 4:1-14

**The written context** of the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman is that part of John called The Book of the 7 Signs (John 1-12) – especially the first half of it (John 2-4).

- Which is before opposition maximises against the Lord Jesus (in John 5-12)
  - during which earlier time Jesus' deity is significantly declared, and, where
  - the triumph of His witness is observed over several of life's "hurdles"
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ sudden disappointments</li><li>○ spiritual deceptions</li><li>○ soul defilements</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ secular debasements</li><li>○ saddening declines</li><li>○ sorrowful disasters</li></ul> |
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**The historical context** is when both Pharisees and Jerusalem high priests are becoming more concerned to oppose the revival under John the Baptist ...and all who are seen as helping him. But the Lord Jesus, alone, is going to baptise, not with water, but with the gift of the Spirit, through His saving work.

Jesus, in His unfolding ministry, will even focus on those who would otherwise be seen as 'excluded' from salvation, or regarded as second-class citizens (e.g. Samaritans).

- **The PURPOSEFUL PASSION of the Lord**  
– the great commission. John 4:1-6
- **The PERVERTED PASSION of the Lost**  
– the great contempt. John 4:7-12 (v.20)
- **The PURIFYING PASSION of the Lord**  
– the great consent. John 4:13-14 (v.10)

This passage introduces us to one of the most sustained discussions in the Bible about the true desire for God and how God uses our "desert experiences".

We must consent to the deeper stirring work of the Spirit in our conversion and in our growth.