



## Sermon Notes from 26 January

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### Expect the Unexpected (*John 4:4-38*)

by Pastor Johanan Justin

God turns the mundane into the miraculous, makes the routine riveting and brings fresh possibilities out of the predictable. His thoughts and ways are higher and no matter the season, He remains a God that brings forth blessings.

7 Unexpected Blessings God has Prepared for us this Festive Season

#### 1) Unexpected Rest (vv4-6)

v4 – Jesus passed through Samaria as He made His way to Galilee. John reveals how unexpectedly human Jesus was: He tired from His travelling (v4b) and needed rest (v6). Jesus knows our exhaustion. The need for rest is neither sinful nor wicked. As God the Father blessed Jesus with rest, God also gives the blessing of rest to us.

#### 2) Unexpected Companionship (vv7-9)

vv6b-7a – A Samaritan woman also sought rest at the well. She intentionally chose an odd time to draw water from the well, to avoid people. While Jesus was at the well to rest his tired body, the woman had come to rest socially and emotionally. Jesus engaged her (v7b); she unexpectedly engaged back in return (v9a). She was intrigued by Jesus; a Jewish man talking to her [Samaritans were seen as unclean by Jews] (v9). An unexpected companionship blossomed. Connect with the ostracised and isolated, for it is God who gives the gift of unexpected companionship!

#### 3) Unexpected Drink (vv10-15)

v10 – The living water Jesus mentioned refers to moving water (a spring or streams), a rare and precious resource. The living water Jesus offers (John 7:38) is the Holy Spirit (v14b). This living water God gives will transform and give eternal life (John 10:10b). The woman did not know that Jesus was the Son of God (vv34b-36a), the One who gives the Spirit without limit. Are you dry? It is God who gives the blessing of the drink of the Holy Spirit!

#### 4) Unexpected Revelation (vv16-26)

V15 – The woman wanted the living water so that she would never have to draw from the well again; doing that

reminded her of shame. Unless it is the living water that we are drinking from, we would never be satisfied (Jer. 2:13). The woman tried to shut the conversation down (vv17-19). Jesus gave the woman an unexpected revelation (v26): she was talking to the Saviour of the world. It is God who gives the blessing of Jesus revealed – to believers and unbelievers.

#### 5) Unexpected Conversion (vv27-30)

v27-29 – This unlikely woman is converted and transformed! The fetcher of water has now become the fetcher of men (v29-30). Have hope as you share the gospel – it is God who gives the blessing of saving faith!

#### 6) Unexpected Food (vv31-34)

vv31-32 – The disciples could not get past their earthly view. The food Jesus was referring to was His ministry on earth (v34). Despite being tired, hungry and thirsty, Jesus remained refreshed and satisfied. He was living out what he taught: it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35b). Seek to bless just as Jesus did, for it is God who gives the blessing of true satisfaction.

#### 7) Unexpected Partnership (vv35-38)

vv35-36 – Jesus told His disciples that people were ready to receive the gospel now. Jesus came only to the Jews (Matt. 15:24), yet He wilfully ministered to the Samaritans. The Samaritans were Jews too – but they were idolaters (2 Kings 17:19, 34). Yet God sent prophets to keep sowing among the Samaritans. By Jesus' time, the Samaritans were only seen as filthy 'spiritual adulterers'. But what a picture of God's love, that the first Samaritan Jesus would meet is a physical adulterer. In the same way that Jesus was in partnership with the prophets, in our evangelism we too are in partnership with other Christians & with God Himself. It is God who gives the blessing of partnership.

John 20:30-31 – The supreme blessing of this story is life. A superior story is the story of Jesus at the cross. All these blessings are secure in Jesus and His work on the cross. Come to Him for life!