



The Suffering Humanity of Jesus **John 4:1-9**

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour (John 4:6—KJV).

And Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour (John 4:6—NASB).

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon (John 4:6—NRSV).

In the first three chapters of the Gospel of John, we learn that Jesus is the Son of God, the Word of God, and the Lamb of God. Beginning with the fourth chapter of John, we learn what John meant when he wrote that the Word became flesh and lived among us (John 1:14). Since Jesus came in human flesh, Jesus could get tired, thirsty, and hungry. However, as fully human, Jesus refused to use His divine powers to meet His personal needs. When the devil tempted Jesus forty days in the wilderness and Jesus was hungry, the devil tempted Jesus to change stones into bread (the devil knew Jesus had the power to do so), but Jesus replied, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). For this reason, among others, Jesus sent His disciples into a Samaritan village to buy food. While sitting by Jacob's well, a Samaritan woman came to draw water. As the Son of God, Jesus could have really impressed her that He is the Son of God by changing Jacob's well into a flowing fountain and creating irrigation ditches so no one would need to draw water from the well again. Instead, to meet His human needs, Jesus asked her for a drink of water, which surprised the woman because Jews would not make themselves ritually unclean by sharing a container of water with a Samaritan. From these examples, we know Jesus suffered real excruciating human pain as He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Jesus did not want to talk to the Pharisees who had heard that He was baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist?
2. Why do you think Jesus had to go through Samaria?
3. What was important about the place where Jesus rested?
4. How did John describe the fact that Jesus is fully human and fully divine?
5. Why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?