



Four Portraits, One *Savior*

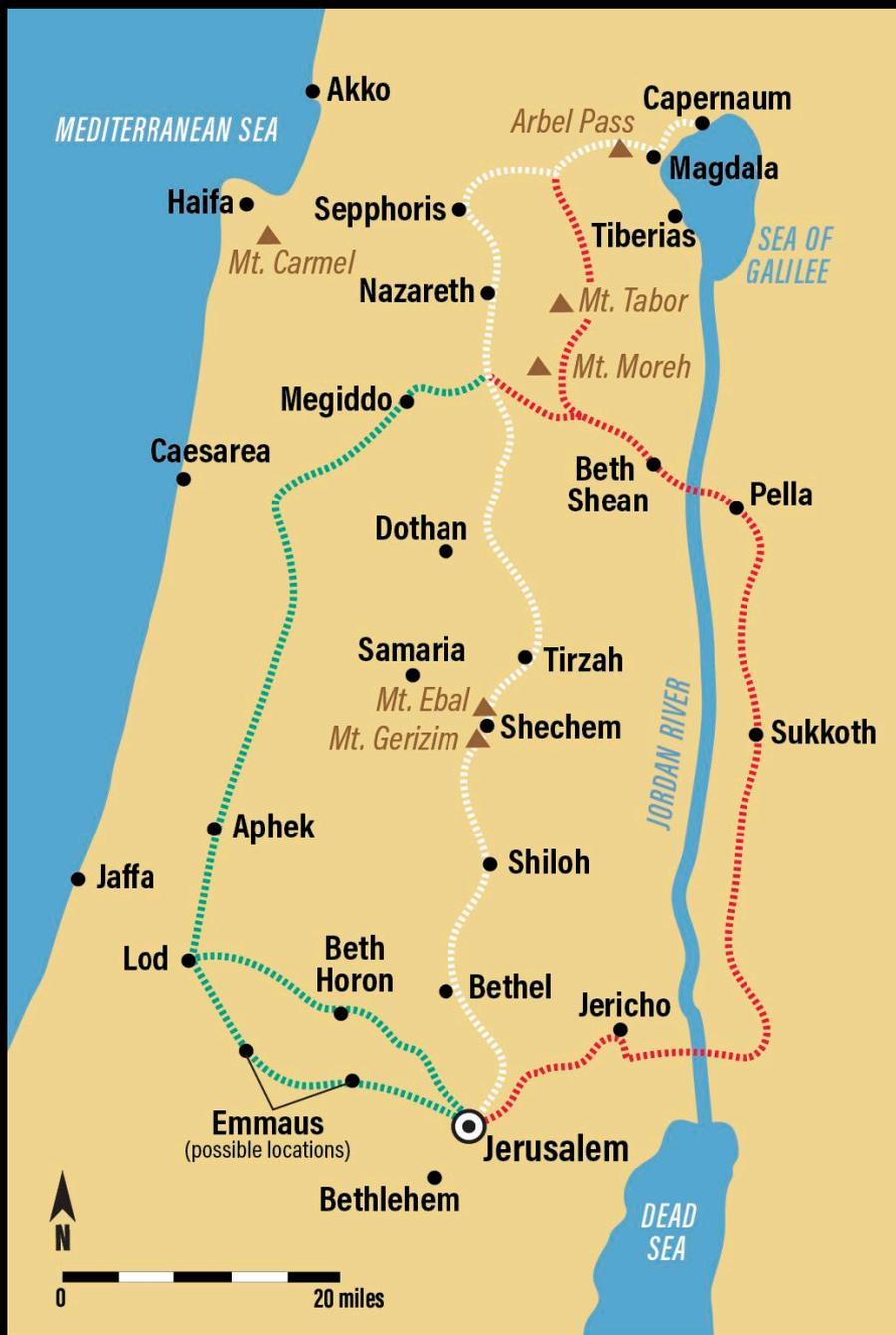


That you may  
have *life*

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***A Life Changed at a Well***

John 4:3-26



722 BC – Assyrians conquered the “Northern Kingdom” (“NK”) of Israel.

Captive Jews in NK were relocated to Assyria; captives from other countries were repopulated to the NK. (2 Kings 17:25-41)

Intermarriage occurred in NK. “Samaritan” was the new “race” in Palestine, considered “half-breeds,” by Jews; not “pure” sons of Abraham. Ezra 9 - 10

1. *His wounds heal our wounds – and He proved it at a well in Samaria.*

A. *Passing through. v4*

B. *Jesus was waiting.*

- *Nothing to draw with. V11.*
- *Why no disciples?*

C. *She was **identified by her failures** and present immorality.*

- *6 man woman.*
- *Alone --noon. V6.*
- *Samaritan. Female. Adulterer. V9, 27-28*

D. *Jesus **sees us** where we least expect him.*

- *Is it possible that Jesus is seeking you today?*





*The first recorded person in John's gospel **who opened God's gift of forgiveness** (John 3:16) was a social outcast, a woman trying to survive, living in an area shunned and avoided by Jews, at a time when a Jewish man would never speak to a woman in public – much less have a conversation with her, alone, by a well outside of town.*

*If Jesus did this for an unnamed woman at a well – why would he not do the same for you and me?*



2. *What we want most is often **not what we most need.***

A. *Her “felt” needs - **physical, circumstantial, emotional.***

1. *v15. Thirsty. Tired. Hopeless. Trapped.*

2. *V17. Real issues: “Will he be there when I return?”*

B. *Jesus **changes the conversation** (Nicodemus):*

1. *He answers her questions with his questions.*

2. *He never speaks about her “felt” needs.*

3. *V10. Talks about the “gift of God”*

4. *V16. Go get your “husband.”*

C. ***How can we let Jesus “change the conversation”?***

• *Believe. Not about religion.*

D. *What happened to the woman at the well?*



# What happened to the Woman at the Well?

- According to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church:
  - Disciples baptized her;
  - Her name became “Photini” – the “enlightened one”
- Entire family baptized – 5 girls (sisters?), 2 sons;
- Entire family martyred by Nero, AD 66
  - She was thrown into a well.
- Referred to as an “apostle,” “evangelist,” from 4<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries in church documents.
- Made a saint by the Greek Orthodox Church
- Recognized on 2/26 every year by the Greek Orthodox Church.





**Jacob's Well today – Church Built Over it:  
“Greek Orthodox Church of St Photini,” Nablus, West Bank**



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3. When we **turn to Jesus and believe**, we drink His “water” – water connected to the only **source of life**, God. Naturally, we want to give his water to others.
- A. I come-- just **as I am**.
1. Humbled, without excuses, believing His message.
  2. Leaving my pride at the door.
  3. I surrender all to Jesus.
- B. Jesus **reframes** my thinking, my behaviors, and gives me a future wo a past.
1. How I see **myself**– identity change.
  2. How I see **others**– as people loved by God.
  3. How I **embrace His plan** for my life.
  4. Gives me a message that **brings life** to others and further shapes me to **conform** to who He is. v 29.





## Call to action.

1. God is calling Bethany Church to bring people to Jesus in 2026. Will you be a part of this effort?
2. This Thursday is 2/26, the day the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates St Photini. Ask God to identify at least one person on this same day that you will reach out to in some way. Pray for them by name and pray for your “reach out” to them.
3. Pray for the staff, the leadership, and the people of your church. Easter is right around the corner!





- *Who was “John”?*

- A. *Apostle John –*

- *one of the 12 disciples of Jesus (not John the Baptist).*
- *Refers to himself as the “disciple whom Jesus loved”*

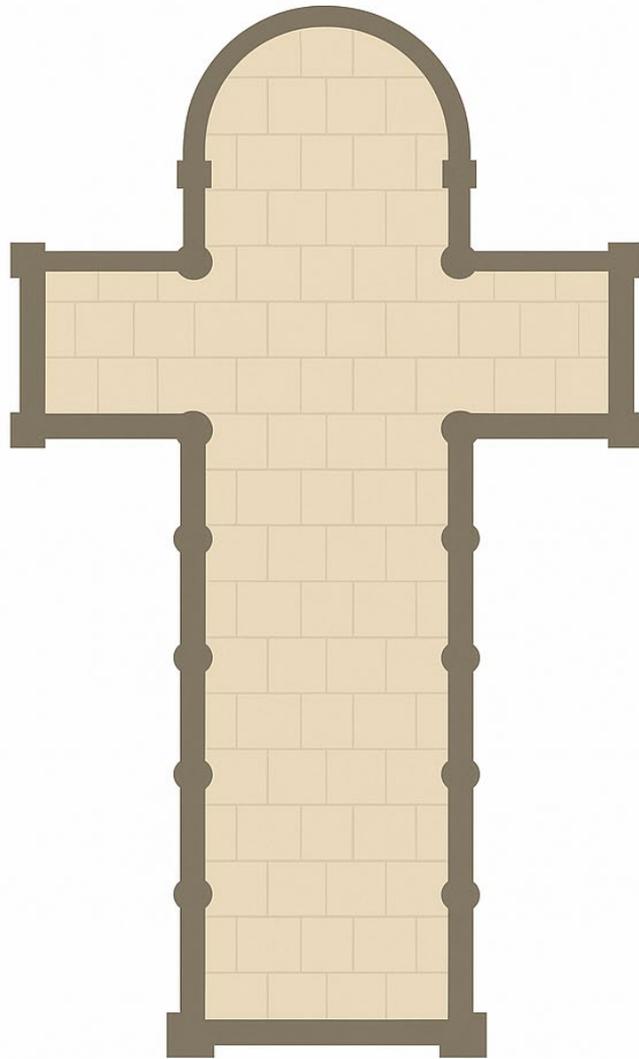
- B. *Fisherman by trade –*

- *partner with his brother, James, his father, Zebedee, and Peter. (Mark 1:19-20),*

- C. *Author of --*

1. *“gospel” of John.*
2. *1, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John*
3. *Revelation*





- The floor plan for the Greek Orthodox Church of St Photini is built in the shape of the cross, i.e., a “cruciform” design. This design was, and still is, used by many churches in the centuries after Christ.