

For the Love of an Imperative Verb

John 4:5-42

The Third Sunday in Lent, Year A, RCL

⁵So he [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "**Give** [δόσ, **dós**] me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, '**Give** [δόσ, **dós**] me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, **give** [δόσ, **dós**] me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "**Go** [ὑπάγε, **hýpage**], **call** [φώνησον, **phōnēson**] your husband, and **come** [ἐλθὲ, **elthè**] back." 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 have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, **believe** [πίστευέ, **písteué**] me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 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 here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these 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" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to

the people, ²⁹" **Come** [δεύτε, **deúte**] and **see** [ἴδετε, **ídete**] a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, **eat** [φάγε, **pháge**] something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, **look** [ἰδοὺ, **idoù**] around you, [**lift up** ἐπάρατε, **epárate** your eyes] and **see** [θεάσασθε, **theásasthe**] how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows, another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I had ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world." [NRSV89]

4:7

δός, **dós**; *vb*: 2nd aor act **imperative** 2nd pers sg from δίδωμι:

translations: **give** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **da** [IAdNT]

4:10

δός, **dós**; *vb*: 2nd aor act **imperative** 2nd pers sg from δίδωμι:

translations: **give** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **asking . . . for** [Brown], **da** [IAdNT]; not translated in NIV11

4:15

δός, **dós**; *vb*: 2nd aor act **imperative** 2nd pers sg from δίδωμι

translations: **give** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **da** [IAdNT]

John 4:5-42, continued

4:16

ὑπάγε, **hýpage**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers sg* from ὑπάγω:

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **ve** [IAdNT]

φώνησον, **phōnēson**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from φωνέω:

translations: **call** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **llama** [IAdNT]

Brown: “It is useless to ask what would have happened if she had returned with her paramour.” [p. 171.]

έλθè, **elthè**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from ἔρχομαι:

translations: **come** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **ven** [IAdNT]

4:21

πίστευέ, **písteué**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers sg* from πιστεύω:

translations: **believe** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **cree** [IAdNT]

Barrett: “The word has here no special significance but is simply an assertive.” [p. 236.]

4:29

δεύτε, **deúte**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from δεύτε:

translations: **come** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **venid** [IAdNT]

ἴδετε, **ídete**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ὁράω:

translations: **see** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue, Brown], also **ved** [IAdNT]

Levine & Brettler: “The woman is depicted as an apostle who brings others to see Jesus. [The Jewish Annotated New Testament, p. 184.]

4:31

φάγε, **pháge**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from ἐσθίω:

translations: **eat** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue, Brown], also **come** [IAdNT]

4:35

ἰδοὺ, **idou**; *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ὁράω:

translations: **look** [NRSV89, ESV, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue], also **open your eyes** [NIV11; Brown], **he aquí** [IAdNT]; not translated in NAB or NKJV

Brown: “Literally ‘lift up your eyes’; it suggests deliberate gaze.” [p. 174.]

ἐπάρατε, **epárate**; *vb*: aor act **imperative** 2nd pers pl from ἐπαίρω:

translations: **look up** [NGEINT], also **lift up** [ESV, NAB, NKJV], **levantad** [IAdNT], not translated in NRSV89, NIV11, NJB, or NRSVue

θεάσασθε, **theásasthe**; *vb*: aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers pl from θεάομαι:

translations: **see** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NRSVue], also **look at** [NIV11, NJB, NKJV; Brown], **mirad** [IAdNT]

Levine & Brettler: “Perhaps a proverbial saying.” [p. 185.]

Barrett: “. . . There is no evidence such a proverb existed.” [p. 241.]

Crossett: Note the multitude of varying translations for this vs. (when the previous translations were generally in agreement). Why do you suppose this is so?

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