



# Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-42



Jesus did not follow the rules of man, but the heart of God. He would not treat the woman at the well as though she were less important than anyone else. He came to offer new life to all people.

## Day #1: Samaritans

Jesus and His disciples traveled North from Judea toward Galilee. Right between these two towns was a region called Samaria. The quickest way to get from Judea to Galilee was to go right through Samaria. However, the Jews hated the people who lived in Samaria. They hated them so much, that most Jews would never travel through Samaria. They would go way out of their way to avoid getting near a Samaritan person.

**+** *Jews don't have anything to do with Samaritans.* - John 4:9b

The Samaritan people were half-Jewish. That means one parent was Jewish and the other parent was a foreigner. Because they were half-Jewish, Samaritans believed only part of the Jewish religion. Because of this, the Jews, especially the Jewish leaders, believed that the Samaritans were "unclean" in God's eyes.

Jesus was not like most Jews! When it came time for Him to travel, He went right through Samaria. He would not avoid anyone.

Jesus saw what the Jewish people did not. We may be tempted to say, "Oh, Jesus knew that the Samaritans *weren't* unclean." But this is **not** the case. Jesus knew that it was *not only* the Samaritans who were unclean, but **all** people were unclean! Because of sin, every person - Jew, Samaritan, and Gentile - was unholy (Romans 3:23). Because of His great love, Jesus was willing to step into the world of unclean people to offer new life to them.

**\*** Ask God to do a "heart check" on you. Is there anyone that you think you are better than? Do not be like the Jewish leaders, thinking you are above anyone else. The truth is, we are all hopeless sinners, and Jesus came to offer new life to anyone who believes in Him. Pray that God would make you like Jesus - willing to go to anyone who needs Him, to share the truth of His love and forgiveness.

## Day #2: The Well

In Samaria, Jesus and the disciples came to a well. Jesus rested by the well while His disciples went into town to get food.

**+** *A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Will you give Me a drink?"*

*The Samaritan woman said to Him, "You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?"* - John 4:7, 9a

The woman was shocked that Jesus would speak to her because she was a Samaritan. In addition, the Jewish teachers did not allow Jewish men to speak to women in public. By speaking to this Samaritan woman, Jesus proved He was different from any other teacher.

Jesus would never do things according to the way people thought best. He was not concerned about rules made up by men. He would only do what God wanted Him to do.

Previously, Jesus had said: *"What I'm about to tell you is true. The Son can do nothing by Himself. He can do only what He sees His Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does."* - John 5:19

By speaking to this woman, Jesus opened up the way to share His truth with her - and we will see that many people will believe because of her. If Jesus had followed the Jewish man-made rules, He would have by-passed Samaria, and this woman, and many others, would never have known who Jesus was. Jesus followed God's plan, and we will see amazing results.

**\*** This is a wonderful model for us. Know God; know His word; listen to His voice. When we do things God's way, we will see amazing things happen! God's way is ALWAYS right!

## Day #3: Symbol of Life

Do you know what a symbol is? It is something that represents something else. Sometimes we need symbols for things we can't see. Can you draw a symbol for love? (A heart) Now draw a symbol for time. (A clock) Very often, Jesus used things that people **could** see as symbols to explain heavenly things that they **could not** see.

After Jesus asked the woman for water, He told her:

### Day #3 continued:



"You do not know what God's gift is. And you do not know Who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked Him. He would have given you living water." - John 4:9-10

The Bible says that living water is a symbol for God's Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). But the woman did not understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual things. She thought He meant actual water. She asked how Jesus could get any water out of the well.

*Jesus answered, "All who drink this (well) water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give him will become a spring of water in him. It will flow up into eternal life."* - John 4:13-14

The woman still did not understand. She said she would that kind of water because she wouldn't have to keep coming to get water out of the well. She understood that she had a physical need for water, but she didn't realize that her spiritual need for new life was far greater.



Discuss how physical water is a great symbol for spiritual life in Jesus. (Water flows from a bigger source; it is refreshing; we must have it in order to live)

## Day #4: More Than a Prophet

At first glance, Jesus looked like every other Jewish man. Though He acted different, the woman at the well did not know He was the Son of God. Jesus was about to give her all the proof she needed.

Jesus told her to go home and get her husband. But she said she did not have a husband. Of course, Jesus already knew this, and much more. Jesus knew all about her past, and her present.



*Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands. And the man you have now is not your husband. What you have just said is very true."*

*"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that You are a prophet."* - John 4:17b-19a

Instantly, she turned the conversation to spiritual things. Her sins were out in the open. She wanted to know more from Jesus.

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah is coming. (He is called Christ.) "When He comes, He will explain everything to us."*

*Then Jesus said, "I, the One speaking to you, am He."* - John 4:25-26

The woman forgot all about her physical needs - the

### Day #4 continued:

reason she had come to the well in the first place. She left her water jar and ran back to town.

*She said to the people, "Come. See a Man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Christ?"* - John 4:29



Jesus went to the Samaritan woman while she was still in her sin. Jesus does not wait for us to "clean up" our own life before He comes to us. Without Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that He offers, none of us *can* clean up our own life! Discuss what the woman's reaction was.

## Day #5: The Harvest

The Samaritan woman, convicted of her sin, and amazed by Jesus, dropped her water jar and ran to tell her friends and family about Him.

Get a calculator. Let's say the woman was so excited about Jesus that she told 8 people about Him. **Push 1 x 8**. Then each of those people told 3 people. Each of them told 3 people, and each of them told 3 people. **Push x 3 x 3 x 3**. Now what number do you have? Over two hundred people!

In a matter of minutes, droves of curious people were headed to the well to see Jesus for themselves (John 4:30).

The disciples didn't know what was happening. As the people came, Jesus told them:



*"I tell you, open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest right now."* - John 4:35b

Jesus compared the people to a crop that was ripe and ready for picking. He said it was a crop for eternal life (John 4:36).

He continued: *"Here is a true saying. 'One plants and another gathers.' I sent you to gather what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work. You have gathered the benefits of their work."* - John 4:37-38

Jesus had told truth to the woman, and she had run off to tell others. Now they were all coming to receive the new life that Jesus offered. The disciples would have the privilege of telling some of those people the truth of new life in Christ.



Don't be discouraged if you share the truth of Jesus with someone, but you don't see him or her put his/her trust in Him. It may take time and many different experiences for them to come to faith. Other times, someone else may have planted seeds of truth in someone, and you are the one who gets to see them put their trust in Jesus. We Christians are all in this together. Plant seeds of truth wherever you go, and pray for an abundant harvest for God's kingdom.