

The Woman at the Well

Message 05 of the series "I Didn't Catch Your Name"

1. One day a woman met Jesus at Jacob's well.

"Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar... Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, 'You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?'"

John 4:5-9 (NLT)

Note: Jews didn't talk to Samaritans. "The king of Assyria transported groups of people from Babylon... and resettled them in the towns of Samaria, replacing the people of Israel... And though they worshiped the LORD, they continued to follow their own gods according to the religious customs of the nations from which they came. And this is still going on today. They continue to follow their former practices instead of truly worshiping the LORD...." 2 Kings 17:24, 33-34 (NLT)

Note: Jesus' love for outcasts was scandalous.

"But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with such scum?' When Jesus heard this, he told them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'" Mark 2:16-17 (NLT)

2. The woman wanted Jesus to make her life easier, but Jesus offered her a brand-new life.

Jesus replied, 'If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.' 'But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket,' she said, 'and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?' Jesus replied, 'Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.' 'Please, sir,' the woman said, 'give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water.' 'Go and get your husband,' Jesus told her. 'I don't have a husband,' the woman replied. Jesus said, 'You're right! You don't have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!'" John 4:10-18 (NLT)

Life Application: Jesus offers living water to ALL who are thirsty.

"I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." John 10:10 (NASB)

"Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.) John 7:37-39 (NLT)

"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these... anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:19-23 (NLT)

3. The woman wanted to talk religion, but Jesus offered her a personal relationship with God.

"'Sir,' the woman said, 'you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?' Jesus replied, 'Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.'" John 4:19-24 (NLT)

Life Application: God wants me to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

“You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27 (NLT)

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.” Matthew 15:8-9 (NLT)

Note: Because of Jesus, we can worship God anytime, anywhere and in any circumstance.

“By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.”
Hebrews 10:20 (NLT)

4. The woman told everyone she knew about Jesus and brought her friends to meet Him.

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.” But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.” “Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other. Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.” John 4:25-35 (NLT)

Life Application: God’s fields are ripe for harvest, and we’re part of His harvest crew.

“The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!” John 4:36 (NLT)

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Luke 10:2 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 06-30-19 • john@centeringlives.com

“For the Lord gave us this command when he said, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.’” Acts 13:47 (NLT)

“The fruit of the righteous *is a tree of life*, And he who wins souls *is wise*.”
Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV)

Connect Group Questions.

1. Describe a time in your life when you were incredibly thirsty. What were you doing? What were you thinking about?
2. Read John 4:5-10. How likely are you to speak to a person you happen to meet at a convenience store while traveling? What kind of people did Jesus talk to while he was traveling? Why?
3. Read Matthew 9:35-38 and John 4:35-39. Have you ever participated in harvesting a crop? If so, what was the experience like? Why does Jesus compare evangelism and harvesting?
4. Read John 4:23. What do you think it means to worship God in spirit and in truth?
5. Read Exodus 20:1-6. Religious syncretism (combining Biblical faith and beliefs from other religions) is common today just as it was in Bible times. Why do you think God forbids this?
6. Spend some time praying as a group for our weekly worship services at Centerpoint. Ask God to speak truth to us from His Word and for His Holy Spirit to move in our hearts. Please pray for our worship leaders, pastors, musicians, technicians, etc. Ask God to fill up our worship spaces with His Holy Spirit.
7. Read Mark 2:16-17. Jesus made a lot of people uncomfortable by hanging around sinners. How would you feel if you had been one of the disciples?