

## Jesus' Conversation with a Samaritan Woman

Message 1 of 6 in the series: "Conversations with Jesus"

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But **these are written that you may believe** that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, **and that by believing you may have life in his name.**" John 20:30-31 (NIV)

### 1. One day Jesus had a conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

"Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 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 4:1-9 (NLT)

*Background Information:* In Jesus' day, most Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans, viewing them as half-pagans who had practiced a wicked, false religion for hundreds of years. "...the people of Israel persisted in all the evil ways of Jeroboam. They did not turn from these sins until the LORD finally swept them away from his presence, just as all his prophets had warned. So Israel was exiled from their land to Assyria, where they remain to this day. 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 17:22-24a & 33-34a (NLT) (See also John 8:48)

*Note:* Jesus' came to rescue the entire world from sin. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to **all people**. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"  
Luke 2:10b-11 (NLT)

### 2. Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water that would satisfy the deepest longings of her soul.

"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...'" John 4:10-18a (NLT)

*Note:* Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman about her many husbands because He was trying to help her realize that she'd never satisfy her thirst for true love except through a personal relationship with Him.

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."  
John 10:10 (MSG)

**Life Application:** Jesus still offers living water to everyone who is thirsty for a new life.

"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 7:37b-39a (NLT)

### 3. Jesus wanted to talk about the Samaritan woman's spiritual needs, but she tried to redirect the conversation by bringing up a contentious issue between Jews and Samaritans, the correct location of the temple.

"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)

*Note:* Jesus brought the conversation back on topic by revealing to the Samaritan woman that through a personal relationship with Him anyone can worship God in Spirit and in truth anywhere, anytime.

“Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19a (NLT)

#### **4. When the Samaritan woman finally realized who she was talking to, she ran to get everyone in her village so they could have conversations with Jesus, too!**

“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... Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, ‘He told me everything I ever did!’ When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.’”  
John 4:25-30 & 39-42 (NLT)

*Note:* The Samaritan woman left her water jar beside the well because, after her conversation with Jesus, she was no longer thirsty.

“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!’ And they left their nets at once and followed him.” Matthew 4:18-20 (NLT)

**Life Application:** “Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.” Revelation 22:17b (NLT)

*Note:* The same Holy Spirit who dwells in us and meets our deepest needs will give us the desire and the power to be witnesses for Jesus among our friends and neighbors as well as among people we'd otherwise avoid or despise.

“But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, **in Samaria**, and to the ends of the earth.”  
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

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#### **Connect Group Questions:**

Read John 4:1-42 & 20:30-31 Then discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus' disciple John wrote down a number of conversations people had with Jesus? Why didn't he just compile a bunch of Jesus' sermon notes?
2. If you could have a personal (out loud) conversation with Jesus, what would you want to talk about?
3. Read 2 Kings 17:22-34, Ezra 4:1-5, & John 8:48. Why did the Jews despise Samaritans & vice versa? Why was Jesus willing to have a conversation with a Samaritan woman and even use a Samaritan as a role-model in one of His parables? (Luke 2:10-11 & 10:30-37)
4. What do you think it means to worship God in spirit and in truth? (Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 15)
5. Share a time when you were spiritually thirsty for God's presence/direction/forgiveness/power. (John 7:37-39, Revelation 22:17) What's the difference between tap water and the living water Jesus gives?

6. Read Acts 1:8. Since the disciples had most likely been raised to despise Samaritans and stay away from them, how do you think they felt when they heard Jesus say these words? Does God still empower and command us to be His witnesses to people with whom we strongly disagree politically/religiously/morally? Why would He do this?