



## #3, Jesus & The Woman

*John 4:1-26, 39*

I love the contrast between the opening weekend in our *ONE* series and this weekend. In our first weekend, we met Nicodemus (John 3). Nicodemus is the first person that John introduces us to. He does so to show the need for us to experience Christ personally and be born again! But then I love how John places the account of the Samaritan women (John 4) directly following Nicodemus. He does so to show us how none of us are below Jesus. Look at the differences...

*He was a man; She was a woman. He had a name; She is nameless.  
He came at night, to protect his reputation; She, who had lost her reputation, came at noon.  
Nicodemus came seeking Jesus; She was sought out by Him.  
He was a politician; She had no status at all.  
He was a scholar; She was very likely uneducated.  
He was highly moral; She was immoral.*

### John 4:1, 3-4

- **The phrase, *he had to pass through Samaria*, is actually not true in a geographical sense!**
  - There were two routes from lower Jordan to Galilee!
    - One passed along the eastern side of the Jordan to the northern end of the valley where it crossed over into the Galilean region.
    - The other, the way Jesus took, went through Samaria, the country west of the Jordan.
  - Even though it was longer, the orthodox Jews would always take the eastern route because it avoided Samaria. *They did this because of their racial hatred toward the Samaritans.*
  - Lasting back of 750 years, the Jews had strong racial hostility with the Samaritans because they considered the Samaritans to be half-bred Jews! (You can read about it, 2 Kings 17)
    - ***Jesus breaks down long-standing rivalries in culture and hearts!***

### John 4:5-6

- **Jesus deliberately sits next to the well without a bucket.**
  - This simple act sets the stage for his interactions with the woman...

### John 4:6b-7

- **The woman of Samaria was an immoral woman; and she apparently had a bad reputation.**
  - And upon seeing her, Jesus would have been expected (culturally) to withdraw to a distance of at least 20 feet.
    - This would indicate that it was both safe and culturally acceptable for her to approach the well.

- **But, Jesus did not move as she approached and in that moment she decided to draw near anyway!**
  - While she was getting ready to lower her bucket into the well, Jesus made his request.
    - *She came for water only. But instead she would meet Jesus!*

#### John 4:9-10

- **Jesus completely shatters social, economic and gender paradigms!**
  - The church is not to be walled up from culture! We're to speak into culture!
  - We're to speak at the modern-day-wells! (*Bars, Gyms, Coffee Shops, Grocery Stores!*)

#### John 4:11-14

- **Have you ever tried to fill a spring with dirt? The spring will push the dirt away!**
  - The gentle force of the water will find a way out!
  - A spring will seep through anything you may place over it.
    - Jesus says, the water that I give will push away anything that you can put over it!
      - **This is the gentle power of the KINGDOM OF GOD!**

#### John 4:15

- **The woman tasted all that the world could offer and she was searching for something more.**
  - Like the woman from Samaria, we are longing for something real in life!
    - People are longing for hope to hang onto!

*Jesus jolts her to her senses with a single sentence!*

#### John 4:16

- **In this moment, the woman's walls fell immediately!**
  - And, even though she tries to change the subject a couple of times, she knew that all her thoughts and actions were seen before God!
    - This woman was broken following a string of intimate relationships whom she would marry and then seemingly divorce...

#### John 4:17-19

- **It is only when we recognize our sin that we can come to the One who is our healer!**
  - Jesus doesn't condemn the women but graciously shows her that he is the "living water" that can quench her thirst! ***Don't be a prisoner in your story!***

Romans 3 | *All of us have sinned and fall short of God*  
Romans 8 | *There is now NO CONDEMNATION for those in CHRIST*

#### John 4:25-29

- **This woman is the first person to whom Jesus reveals himself to be the Messiah!**
  - Jesus didn't choose to share this information first with a person of seeming importance (Nicodemus) but with a broken Samaritan woman!

#### John 4:39

- The woman walks away and does as Jesus had told her to do.
  - As a result of Jesus' words, the woman believed and became a witness.
    - She became the first woman preacher in Christian history...!
    - **We are called to proclaim how our lives have been rescued from darkness**