

A Doorway

John 4 NIV

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— **2** although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. **3** So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

- Here in the storyline of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus is leaving Judea and headed to Galilee. Although the road through Samaria was the shortest route from Jerusalem to Galilee, pious Jews often avoided it. They did so because there was a deep distrust and dislike between many of the Jewish people and the Samaritans.
- It's easy to miss the significance of Jesus stopping in Samaria because we don't understand the tension that existed between the Jews and the Samaritans. It's likely that Jesus' decision to go through Samaria made the disciples uncomfortable as it could lead to conflict.
- When I read the Gospels, I see that Jesus doesn't hesitate to go where others are afraid to go.
 - **Matthew 8:28** *When Jesus arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.*

- Jesus isn't afraid to step into the darkest, most desperate situations. He goes there and brings freedom and transformation to certain ones who face a hopeless situation without him.

Vs. 9-14

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Vs. 6 ... Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

- It was the custom for women to draw water earlier in the day. For this woman, either there was an emergency that caused her to need water at noon or she was left to draw water in the middle of the day when no-one else was around because she was shunned by the other woman.
- So much about her story tells us she probably considered herself least likely to receive a miracle from God.

1. Jesus meets her in Samaria, where no other Rabbi will go...
 2. Jesus meets her, in the middle of the day, when no one else wants to be there...
 3. Jesus speaks to her when no other Jew will speak to her...
- It's just like the God to show up in her life at this moment... when she is alone... Perhaps feeling rejected...
 - Some of the most powerful moments we will ever have with Jesus are in moments like this. I believe God even looks for those alone moments when he doesn't have to contend for our attention or share us with others.
 - It's awesome to me how Jesus meets her at Jacob's well. The place where Jacob labored so that he and his family could have water for life. Jacob's story was much like this woman's. As he was running from his brother Esau, on his journey he laid his head down on a rock alone and God revealed himself to Jacob in Genesis 28.
 - Now 2000 years later Jesus meets the woman at the same well and says Jacob labored and found the water this world offers. Now Jesus has labored and bring her living water that only God can give.

Vs. 15-19

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

- This is the perfect example of how the Gifts of the Spirit are used in Evangelism. Jesus operates in a Word of Knowledge. He knows supernaturally by the Spirit something that isn’t known in the natural.

Jesus demonstrates how God loves mankind in this story...

Jesus cared enough about her to speak to her:

- **When** no one else would
- **Where** no one else would
- And about **Something** no one else would. (**What**)
 - **Note something here:** This was an embarrassing thing in this woman’s life and like with the Woman caught in adultery, Jesus ministers to both in a way to not shame, but to restore.

Vs. 20-30

20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29** “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” **30** They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Jesus reveals Himself to “The Woman at the Well” in three ways:

- First as one who gives Living Water that quenches the thirst of the soul...
 - Second as one who knows and cares enough about her to have a conversation with her “about everything she ever did”, for the purpose of restoring...
 - Third as Messiah, the Christ who is coming and will explain everything to us...
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- Jesus showed up in her life as a Doorway to God...

Jesus said in **John 10:9**

“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

- Now this woman runs back to the very people she most likely felt rejected by just to tell them about Jesus...

This woman becomes the first evangelist for Jesus to Samaria...

Vs. 29

“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

The question I have:

Did this woman have enough Bible training to qualify her for Ministry?

- Education doesn't qualify you for ministry. Revelation is what qualifies you for ministry. Education is good but without Revelation it is powerless.

Note: If the disciples had waited until they were qualified to follow Jesus they would have never followed Jesus. If any of us wait until we feel qualified for ministry we will never do what God has called us to do.

Perfection or feeling ready is the devil's strategy to keep people in a self disqualified state of frozen obedience.

Thankfully there were no Pharisees between the well and the city.

The Woman at the Well was a Doorway to Sychar...

The primary purpose of a doorway is to control entry and exit. They are created opening in a wall.

Movement: To allow movement between rooms and transitions from one place to the next.

Connection: They link different zones of a building or rooms.

When Jesus said

John 10:9

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Jesus is our doorway to God, he is the entry point for eternal life.

The Woman at the Well was a doorway to Samaria...

Illustration: Every door is to control entry or exit.

Not all doors are the same...

I've seen Red doors

Yellow doors

Blue Doors

Doors with round tops

I've seen big tall double doors.

There is even a small door inside of a door on the Nursery here

- In the same way every person is unique and has a unique ability to be an open door for Jesus to reach different people.

1 Corinthians 9:22

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

Vs. 40,41

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers.

Closing: