

Woman of Samaria - Breaking Cultural Norms

John 4:1-42

Nicodemus

Educated
Powerful
Respected
Orthodox
Theologically trained
Man
Jew
Ruler (on top)

Samaritan Woman

Uneducated
Without influence
Social outlier
Capable only of folk religion
Woman
Samaritan
Bottom of the pile

Both needed and encountered Jesus.

vs. 3-4, Left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

Samaria

- After the exile Jews from the southern kingdom viewed Samaritans as political rebels, ethnically less-than, and religiously skewed.

vs. 6, Jacob's well
At the foot of Mt. Gerizim.

About the sixth hour (Noon).

vs. 7-10, So much talk about water.
Living water -> there are several layers of meaning.
Flowing or spring water
Still water (a well)

Jacob's well is both.

Outline of the text

- vs. 6-18, The living water of Christ.
- vs. 19-26, The worship that the Father seeks.
- vs. 31-38, Dialogue with the disciples.
- vs. 27-30, Describing the witness (evangelism) of the Samaritan woman to the people of Sychar.
- vs. 39-42, ongoing transformation

John is continuing to reveal the remarkable reality of Jesus.

Chapter 2

- Wine of Cana -> the gift of the kingdom of God.
- Water from Jesus -> symbolizes the life and salvation of the kingdom.
- Cleaning of the Temple -> old temple / new temple of Christ's body. Old order of worship / worship initiated through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Living Water
OT ->

Jeremiah 17:13 O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water.

In the same way that water is essential for life the Law (the words of the Torah) was viewed as life for the world.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Psalms 1:3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

John 7:37-38 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

vs. 15-18, Give me this “magic water”. Ease my burden.

Am I known (seen)? Does anyone care?

It is quite possible that Jesus is speaking directly to her most significant insecurities.
“Go, call your husband, and come here.”

I have no husband. (This woman has a complicated and painful relational life).
She is at the well at noon drawing water and not with any other woman.
She has been married 5x.
She is currently with a man, but they are not married.

Divorced? Obviously -> her choosing (no idea).
Widowed?
Relationally scandalous?

We simply are not told... But Jesus knew (he saw) and he cared.

Question: What insecurities might Jesus be speaking to you about? How will you respond? Are you open to the truth that Jesus can and does bring wholeness to your life?

vs. 19, I perceive that you are a prophet.

vs. 20, The great debate.

Jews = Jerusalem / Samaritans = Mt. Gerizim

Deuteronomy 11:29 And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.

Jesus doesn't champion either one.

vs. 21, The hour is coming.

Something new is taking place (right now) where worship will no longer be tied to one location.

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

vs. 22, The Messiah does come from the Jews. Jesus is a Jewish Messiah for **all** nations.

“The Jews stand within the stream of God's saving revelation, so also can it be said that they are the vehicle of that revelation, the historical matrix out of which that revelation emerges.” ~ D. A. Carson

This is the mission that will be given to Paul

Ephesians 3:1-6 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. **6** This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

vs. 23-24, In spirit and truth

There will **not** be an attachment to a religious location but God's people will be known by their worship of the Father (in spirit and truth).

This is what becomes the mark of the church.

A people gathered from every tribe and people worshipping in spirit and truth.

vs. 25, Well I'm not sure about all that, but when the Messiah shows up he will tell us all things.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— **16** just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' **17** And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. **18** I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Taheb - another Moses will come to restore. The coming of the returning one. (The Samaritans only adhered to their version of the Pentateuch / Torah).

vs. 26, I Am.

vs. 27, He is talking with a woman.

The disciples are shocked.

In Jewish Rabbinical writings ->

"One should not talk to a woman on the street."

"Not even you own wife (at least a waste of time, at worst a distraction from the Torah)."

"It is forbidden to give a woman any greeting."

vs. 28-29, She is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah.

She leaves her water jar. I have spoken with the one who restores and the revealer of truth.

vs. 31-38, The ministry of Jesus is obedience in action.

Water - Woman

Food - disciples

- The waiting is over. The gathering of people (harvest) into the kingdom has begun.
- Men and women are being brought into salvation. Eternal life is present. The kingdom is here.
- We all have a part to play and we can rejoice in the success of others.

vs. 39-42, This is indeed the Savior of the world.

Other deities will not save.

Rome, despite its claims cannot save.

Jesus alone is the Savior of the world.

He will fulfill the hopes of the Samaritans, Jews, and all nations.

Important Reflections: Why would many believe in him because of the women's testimony?

There certainly was some sort of social shame and isolation!

But the message of Jesus overcame all of those barriers.

He told me all that I ever did.

She is the first evangelist to a despised people (a woman from the people) telling her people of the Savior.

Jesus happily breaks social and religious taboos. He will touch a leper, he will heal on the sabbath, he will engage with a Samaritan, he will speak and utilize women in ministry.

Jesus gets to the heart of the matter.

Sin?	Loss?
Shame?	Hopelessness?
Pain?	Abandonment?

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Question: How has your life changed because of Jesus? Has this life change led to immediate declaration? Are you allowing your past (sin, loss, shame, pain, hopelessness, abandonment) to get in the way of the pure joy that Jesus has saved you? Are you willing to overcome social barriers to speak boldly concerning Jesus?