



Stories that Change
Kelli Wommack
“A Transformation Story”
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Key Verses: John 4:1-42

Key Thought: Due to an encounter with Jesus, a broken outcast among the Samaritans of Sychar is transformed into a restored influencer.

Points to Consider:

- We might enjoy the transformation of houses on shows like *Extreme Home Makeover*; however, we ought to be much more excited by God's ability to transform lives!
- 4: Contra the norm for devout Jews— who would take the long route from Judea to Galilee to avoid the Samaritans due to prejudice, Jesus passes through Samaria.
- 6-7: John notes that it was noon when Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well— which was a rather inconvenient time for drawing water. Inferring from what we learn of her past (which was considered to be quite shameful in that culture), it is possible that this woman was avoiding the people of her town (cf. 16-19).
- 10: Jesus emphasizes to this woman that God's salvation is unmerited!
- 14: The “living water”— the Holy Spirit— leads to a new life, not a mere extending of the old life. (See what precedes in 3:5-6.) → What's more, drinkers of the Holy Spirit will even become “wells” of everlasting life for the sake of others.
- 26: While obscured by most English translations, Jesus responds to the woman: “I am— the one speaking to you.” ← Jesus is alluding to Exodus 3:13-15, where God reveals to Moses His divine name of “Yahweh” (represented as “LORD” in most English translations), which is very close to “I am” in Hebrew. → Jesus is thus revealing that He is God!
- Jesus exposed the woman's brokenness in love, which seems to have made her feel accepted by God and led to her testimony among the people of her town (cf. 28-29).

Discussion Prompts:

- How can you relate to this woman?
- How have you settled for “wells” that can merely sustain the old life?
- Can you share about when you've been surprised by God encountering you?
- What is your experience (if any) of the new life that's from the Holy Spirit?
- What could be a “**Key Thought**” (see above) which— so far— captures your story?
- Close with prayer for one another.