

When Jesus Speaks to You
John 4:1-30
When Your Past Obscures Your Present

- **Our pasts often make it particularly hard to hear from Jesus.**
- **Our pasts often reveal the places where we've tried to find purpose apart from Jesus.**
- **Jeremiah 2:13: "My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."**
 - **The woman, as she answers Jesus' questions and responds to his offers, reveals her broken cisterns.**
- **Sometimes, it is our family past that makes it hard to hear from Jesus.**
- **By bringing up Jacob, the woman is referring to a heritage that she could use to give her some purpose and place in the world.**
 - **She uses this past to try to interpret Jesus' offer of living water.**
 - **Jesus returns to his offer by showing that he is the fulfillment of her family past.**
- **Sometimes, it is our personal past that makes it hard to hear from Jesus.**
- **The woman at the well hears all that Jesus says through the filter of two parts of her personal past: her biological history and her relational history.**
 - **She immediately brings up the fact that she is a woman and a Samaritan, and Jesus is not either of those things.**
 - **Later, Jesus deals with her relational history because it was a barrier to her hearing from Jesus.**
- **Sometimes, it is our religious past that makes it hard to hear from Jesus.**
- **The woman finally brings up the fact that Jews and Samaritans disagree about how people are supposed to worship.**
 - **Jesus deals with this objection by pointing out that neither the Jews nor the Samaritans had really understood the truth.**