

I WHO SPEAK TO YOU AM HE

SMALL GROUP NOTES - 11/02/18

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SCRIPTURE

John 4: 1-42

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Heading from Judea to Galilee, Jesus decides to go through Samaria. It's the middle of the day and he is tired. The disciples have gone to buy some food. Jesus is alone. A woman from Samaria comes to draw water and Jesus begins to engage her in conversation. This is culturally wrong on so many levels but Jesus is always breaking down boundaries. He starts to speak to her about the offer of living water that will satisfy her. Her interest is piqued. Give me some of this water, she asks.

But there is a problem. If she is going to receive this living water Jesus needs to deal with her sin; the very parts of her life she is trying to avoid talking about. Why else is she here during the hottest part of the day, drawing water on her own? Jesus brings up the problem of her lifestyle with her and she tries to change the subject, steer the conversation away to something else. How often do we do that?

But Jesus won't let her go. She wants to talk about worship, he'll tell her about true worship. She says that the Messiah is coming. Jesus has been surprising her throughout the conversation but nothing he has said so far will be as shocking as how he responds; 'I who speak to you am he.' In other words, I'm the Messiah.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Although the quickest way to Galilee from Judea was through Samaria, some strict Jews would opt for a longer journey around Samaria so they would not become defiled by passing through the area.
- The Samaritans were a racially mixed group of partly Jewish and partly Gentile ancestry and were disliked by both Jews and non-Jews.
- The woman's reference to worshipping 'on this mountain' in verse 20 is because the Samaritans had built their own temple for worship of Yahweh, although by the time of this conversation with Jesus it had been destroyed.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Read John 4:1-42 and try and put yourself in the place of the Samaritan woman. What emotions do you think she was feeling at different parts of the story? What changes do we see in her?
2. What does this story tell about Jesus?
3. What obstacles are there that stand in the way of Jesus reaching out to this woman? In our experience what obstacles do people put in the way of encountering Jesus?
4. What can we learn from the woman's response in telling the town about her encounter with Jesus in relation to our own witness?

DIGGING DEEPER

Think about what Jesus says in verse 21 and read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. What is Jesus saying and what does it mean for our lives?

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY / DEVOTION

Who is this man? John Ortberg

The Jesus I never knew, Philip Yancey