



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: March 16, 2026

Scripture: [John 4: 1-30](#)

Title: When You Feel New

Author: Esther Baird

Read: [John 4: 1-30](#)

Devotional:

If you are a member or a regular attender at Netcast, then you know that at the end of most services (if Matt doesn't preach too long) they ask us to fill out a connection card to help people get plugged in. And they say, "If you're new, or you feel new, we encourage you to fill it out."

If you're new, or feel new. Maybe you've heard it so often you've forgotten what it's like to hear that for the first time.

Is it possible that there are people who have been coming for weeks, maybe months or years, and still feel new? Have you ever felt that awkward sense of not really fitting in because your life doesn't seem to match the people around you, even if you've been around them for a long time? Maybe at a job, at school, in a friend group, or sometimes even at church.

We all know that feeling. The woman in our passage certainly did - - maybe for good reason. Regardless, the "woman at the well," as she has been called for almost 2,000 years, didn't fit into her village. She wasn't with the other women getting water when it was cooler. She was alone, drawing water during the hottest part of the day.

Until suddenly she wasn't alone.

Because Jesus met her.

And not only did he meet her *where* she was, he confirmed that he knew exactly *who* she was. She had had five husbands and was now living with a sixth man. Even today five husbands might raise eyebrows, let alone in that culture, and by number six she wasn't even bothering with marriage. We don't know why. And that's often the case in a room full of people... say, a church. We don't know, just by looking at someone or hearing a little about them, what their real story is or why they might still "feel new," even after years.



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Devotional cont.

But Jesus does.

Jesus knew this woman and her life on the fringe, and he did something remarkable: he revealed who he truly was to her.

He offered her “living water” - eternal life - and explained why he alone could give it. In verse 26 he declared that he was the long-awaited Messiah. Sitting beside her at the well on a hot and dusty day, Jesus invited her to belong to him by telling her who he was.

Jesus met this woman who didn't fit in, who still felt new in her own town, and offered her citizenship in a greater kingdom. And he offers the same to us.

We all long for something more than this life and world. We long to belong and not feel new.

Jesus offers us his living water of eternal life and tells us exactly who he is: God, our Savior, who loves us so much that he came to meet us where we were and to call us to where we truly belong.



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Reflection Questions:

- The Samaritan woman felt like an outsider in her own community. Have you ever experienced a season where you felt like you didn't belong? How does Jesus meeting this woman change the way you think about bringing those feelings to him?
- Jesus knew the woman's full story before she told anyone else. How does it affect you to know that Jesus sees and understands your whole story... and still invites you to follow him?
- After meeting Jesus, the woman immediately went back to her town and told others about him. What does her response teach us about sharing our faith, even if our lives aren't perfectly put together?
- Just after our passage, in John 4:35-38, Jesus tells his disciples that the fields are "white for harvest." Where might God already be working in the people or places around you this week?
- Many people in the town came to believe in Jesus first because of the woman's testimony, and then because they heard him themselves. Who in your life might first encounter Jesus through your words, your story, or your invitation?

Notes:
