

3.3

LIVING WATER

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Christ is the Savior of the whole world.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will use my testimony to tell others about Jesus.



FOCUS VERSES: John 4:13-14

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

LESSON TEXT: John 4:7-19, 24-30



BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Lesson Text: John 4:7-19, 24-30

Jesus' visit with the lowly Samaritan woman in John 4 was a sharp contrast from Jesus' visit with the stately Nicodemus in John 3. However, Jesus notably spent time to dialogue with both, even though they were on opposite ends of the religious and social spectrums. Other contrasts between the stories are obvious. Nicodemus sought Jesus; Jesus sought the Samaritan woman. Nicodemus visited Jesus by night; Jesus met the woman in a public setting at the brightest, hottest part of the day.

Despite the differences between the stories, important similarities can be found in the two stories as well. Jesus revealed a part of His nature to both Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. However, Jesus spoke more plainly with the woman. When the Samaritan woman spoke of the Messiah, Jesus responded with unambiguous language. He declared to her: "I that speak unto thee am he" (John 4:26). These words are one of the clearest revelations Jesus ever gave about His identity as the divine, incarnate God throughout His entire ministry. Jesus was fond of sharing special revelations of Himself with the lowest of society. One of His other great self-revelations came in a private conversation with a blind beggar He had healed. (See John 9:36-37.)

Both Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman were confused by Jesus' words. Both peppered Jesus with questions during their respective interactions. However, even though the Samaritan woman did not understand completely, unlike Nicodemus, she acted decisively based on what she did understand. She did not wait to understand fully to obey completely.

The disciples' activity (or nonactivity) in this story provides an interesting perspective. They had gone into the city to purchase supplies, and the woman had come out of the city to draw water. The disciples likely passed the woman on their way into town. The woman had expected the Jew at the well to ignore her, possibly just like the twelve Jews she passed on her way to the well ignored her. But Jesus' treatment of the woman provided her mercy and grace and provided an example for the disciples—then and now—to imitate.

"I THAT SPEAK UNTO THEE AM HE" (JOHN 4:26). THESE WORDS ARE ONE OF THE CLEAREST REVELATIONS JESUS EVER GAVE ABOUT HIS IDENTITY AS THE DIVINE, INCARNATE GOD THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE MINISTRY.

DAY 1

John 4:7-10

⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

⁸ (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Biblical Insight

Jesus' request for a drink seemed innocuous, but Jesus was there for something deeper than physical hydration. The Samaritan woman responded in shock to Jesus, revealing her previous experiences with Jews. She was used to being overlooked and ignored. She was not even expecting to be addressed, much less treated with dignity. However, Jesus stated that if she had understood who stood in front of her, she would have abandoned all social protocol and addressed Jesus first.

Daily Devotion

Exposure often starts the road to recovery. Exposure is like ripping off a bandage. When this process happens, physically and emotionally, healing can begin. Staying guarded and only showing the put-together parts of our lives is not a healthy way to live. Keeping a cover on an injury inhibits the restorative process.

The Samaritan woman was able to learn this fact after her encounter with Jesus. For so long she had tried to hide her identity and keep her mistakes under wraps. Uncovering the hurt was her saving grace.

The Samaritan woman realized she did not have to limp away in disgrace, and neither do you. You don't have to fake being fine anymore. The compassionate Savior welcomes you in your frailty and sits with you as you slowly uncover the hurting places.

Healing begins when you stop trying to pretend like everything is okay and realize we are all human. Sometimes humans hurt and mess up. Your life will be so much better when you stop hiding and let yourself be healed. Your scars will tell a story that will help others on their journey. In the right context, revealing brings healing.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 2

John 4:11-15

¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴ but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

Biblical Insight

The Samaritan woman seemed genuinely confused by Jesus' words, thinking He was talking about physical water. Her question about whether Jesus was greater than Jacob would later be echoed by a crowd asking if Jesus was greater than Abraham (John 8:53). Jews and Samaritans held the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in high regard. Anyone purporting to do a more substantial work than these esteemed patriarchs was met with skepticism. However, Jesus was attempting to provide the Samaritan woman with a gift far greater than a well from which to draw water.

Daily Devotion

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis shared his viewpoint on being humble: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." Jesus modeled this statement. He was the greatest of the greats, the King of all kings, the most holy one to ever walk in skin, yet He was never boastful. His life and character spoke clearly of who He was.

He had a gift that would change the Samaritan woman's life, but she preferred to argue a little with Him. If He had approached her wearing a name tag and handing out His royal résumé, perhaps her outlook would have been different. But He came softly, and she was hesitant.

Have you ever felt this way? If you did not know who Jesus was and He approached you, what would your response be? Would you be skeptical or dive right in? Would you compare Him to someone else or trust Him completely? We are blessed to know Jesus, and now that we are His hands and feet, we need to walk in the same grace He did.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 3

John 4:16-19

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

¹⁸ for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

Biblical Insight

Jesus did not intend to embarrass or shame this woman because of her previous failed relationships. No one, not even His disciples, was around when Jesus revealed her past to the Samaritan woman. Jesus' intention was to demonstrate His supernatural insight by sharing something a mere stranger could never have guessed. Jesus even included her exact number of past husbands to show how specific His insight was. This method worked. The Samaritan woman responded with recognition that Jesus was a prophet, even though she attempted to change the subject in the next verse. (See John 4:20.)

Daily Devotion

Jesus is very thoughtful in the way He reaches for His own. He knows how to get down to our level of need, even our level of interest. If you enjoy nature, He may meet you there. If you love music, He may speak to you through a melody. Chances are slim that He will speak loudest to you in places you never are.

The Samaritan woman frequented the well often, so Jesus knew right where to go to converse with her. He knew what she had been through and all she had done. She was astounded and knew their meeting had to be ordained.

Jesus knows where you are, too. If you are praying for someone or wondering if Jesus knows where to find you, He is already there. He is seeking to abide with you at whatever well you consistently seek to be filled. Whatever you keep running back to will never satisfy you the way your patient, all-knowing redeemer will. He is waiting at the well with the everlasting gift you are searching for.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 4

John 4:24-26

²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

²⁵ The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

²⁶ Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Biblical Insight

Samaritans and Jews might not have agreed on much, but they both agreed the Messiah was coming at some point. The prophet Daniel foretold a coming Messiah (Daniel 9:25-26), and the concept of a coming Messiah was alluded to several times in the Pentateuch. (See Genesis 3:15; 49:10; Numbers 24:17; Deuteronomy 18:15.) Ironically, the Samaritan woman believed the coming Messiah would “tell us all things,” and Jesus proved His status as the Messiah by telling her things a stranger would never have known or even ventured to guess.

Daily Devotion

That day was written and recorded forever for so many reasons. Samaritans and Jews were not known to intermingle well; that day they did. The woman at the well had a questionable reputation, but Jesus spent time with her anyway. Jesus changed her life in a very unlikely set of circumstances. That day was a brilliantly bright day.

Since she came to the well at noon, she came by herself. The rest of Samaria was huddled indoors, safely out of the crosshairs of the blazing Middle Eastern sun. She was not by herself for long because Jesus struck up a conversation with her. He talked to her first. There was no way a Jewish holy man was talking to a Samaritan woman, especially *that* Samaritan woman, but He was.

In the brightness of that noonday sun, Jesus shined a light into the hidden parts of her heart to let her know He already knew her past, and He loved her anyway. She experienced freedom, and then she ran into the city to share the news of Jesus' love and power with others.

Jesus is all powerful, yet Jesus is also gentle. He does not want your sins to keep you in hiding. If you let Him, He will help you walk the road of restoration, and He will protect you as you go. Do you have anything in your life you need to let the Lord work out or reveal in you?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 5

John 4:27-30

²⁷ And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

³⁰ Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

Biblical Insight

For all the emphasis the woman put on the physical well and drawing drinking water, the Gospel writer John specifically noted that the woman left her waterpot when she ran into town to testify of Jesus as the Messiah. Earlier Jesus told the woman if she truly understood who He was, her focus would have been different (v. 10). She forgot all about her mission to draw water, and she also forgot about her shame that kept her away from the townsfolk. One encounter with Christ changed her entire perspective of herself and others.

Daily Devotion

In the age of social media, many seek to be known and validated. Some plaster themselves on every internet platform. They strive to be liked and remembered. These people want their names to go down in history for whatever made them famous.

The Samaritan woman was different. She wanted to hide. She did not want to be remembered for what she had done and what had happened to her. Jesus flipped the narrative around when He spoke boldly to her, yet in a way that did not unearth more shame. He offered her a new life. His method and the new life were beautiful.

We do not know her by name. We only know where she came from. When Jesus transforms your life, He uses where you come from to become part of your story. Where is your Samaria? Even if no one remembers your name, what will you be remembered for?

Have you been delivered from an addiction? Perhaps you can help someone else who has journeyed along that path. Do you deal with trauma that you cannot bring yourself to talk about? In the right context, your story and past can bring hope and inspiration to someone around you.

Think about the unique ways you can help someone through what you have been through.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*
