

Not Business As Usual

If you've ever felt like you are too broken, your past is too messy, or that you're not the kind of person God can use, this message is for you.

I want to welcome you to our new series, *"Is That in the Bible?"* We're moving from screen to Scripture. The question we are asking, *"Is that in the Bible?"*

With this clip we just saw, the answer is an emphatic yes.

Let's now look at **John 4:7-24**.

*"When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, **'Will you give me a drink?'** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

*Jesus answered her, **'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'***

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

*Jesus answered, **'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'***

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

*He told her, **'Go, call your husband and come back.'***

"I have no husband," she replied.

*Jesus said to her, **'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'***

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

*"Woman," Jesus replied, **'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'***

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you – I am he."

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

It is abundantly clear, everything about this interaction was anything but an ordinary day. This is not same old, same old. In fact, this is a massive moment in the life and ministry of Jesus.

This is the first time that Jesus has ever directly during his earthly ministry told someone point blank that he is the Messiah. Everything about this was engineered to communicate that he is not the savior that the world wanted. He's the savior the world desperately needed.

Here's the big thought for this whole series. This whole study of who Jesus is as presented in the scriptures and covered by the episodes that we're looking at in The Chosen.

The whole idea communicated in the Sermon on the Mount is that it is completely different than the way man sees it and the way man does it.

Now, pausing that thought for a moment to introduce this whole series, when we talk about the question, is this in the Bible? We're watching these scenes depicting Bible stories lived out.

We're asking, is this the same or different as what comes to us in Scripture? To help us in that pursuit, we need to establish three containers.

Three buckets, if you will.

- Bucket 1) Scriptural information.
- Bucket 2) Church tradition or history
- Bucket 3) Creative imagination.

The Chosen is all at once, from the very outset, up front to us about the difference between them. In fact, when you go back to episode one from season one, the first words on the screen, the title screen, are these words.

The Chosen is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all biblical and historical content and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the Gospels."

They're saying as we watch the show, they will be drawing from all these buckets.

We do know that Jesus' meeting with her was intentional. We're told in verse 4 that Jesus needed to go through Samaria.

He had an appointment. He wanted to meet with this girl. This was completely opposite of any other Jewish Rabbi. Jews avoided any interaction with Samaritans at all costs. In fact, the text told us point blank, Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Now this points back to the Old Testament book of 2 Kings. The Assyrian invasion and captivity of the northern tribes of Israel. They reseeded or repopulated the area after the captivity with heathens, with Gentiles.

They married with some of the Jews that came back home. The Jews viewed them as sort of a half-breed. They didn't want to do anything with them.

The Samaritans responded by building their own temple. You have these two competing strains of religious thinking. Jews detested and avoided the Samaritans.

Here's Jesus, a different kind of king of a different kind of kingdom. He heads straight to Samaria to reach this girl. He wants her to be the first one to hear he's the Messiah. He wants her to be deployed on mission to be his ambassador.

Their interaction can help us to see truth to combat four lies that the world tells us.

1) _____ can solve the problems in my life.

This is clearly a lie this woman is believing. She thought that religion can solve her problem. She says:

- We have this temple.
- We can go here.
- We can do this.

This is how God wants us to live.

If you knew the gift of God, you'd ask me for a drink and I would give it to you. He tells her, not something she needs to do, but a gift she needs to receive, because this is so important.

Salvation is a gift that God gives, not a wage that we earn. **Romans 6.23** says that salvation is the gift of God.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus."

This woman thinks: God needs to be appeased. I need to approach him like a slave to a master or like an employee to an employer.

She thinks He's up in heaven saying: *What have you done for me lately?*

He's really saying, I have a gift I want to give. I want you to be my child, my son, my daughter.

When she's quick to deflect to externals, Jesus cuts back to spirit and truth to the heart. It's a lie that religion can solve the problems in your life.

Religion that seeks to appease God or earn our salvation will NOT solve your problems. James tells us God wants from us: *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*
James 1:27

Caring for the needs of others, and keeping oneself from sin makes a difference.

2) My past is so _____, there's no way that God can fix me.

Now this woman was low on every conceivable man-made hierarchy that exists. She was a woman which in that day men woke up every day saying, *"I praise God I wasn't born a woman."*

She was a Samaritan woman. The Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. She was a sinful Samaritan woman, rejected by her own people. That's why she's here at the well in the heat of the day.

She's the lowest on the pecking order. She's the least likely to be chosen. Jesus esteemed her highly to pick her to be the first to receive the revelation that he's the Messiah.

What is Jesus telling us?

The ladder doesn't matter. The man-made ladders that tell us who's important. The man-made ladders that tell us who's worthy. Jesus says, I'm completely ignoring all of that.

Because in his kingdom, **Galatians 3.28**, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you all are one in Christ Jesus."*

It's a lie to think that because I've done this, I've been there, I'm so low in man's eyes that I can't be used by God. He can fix you. He can deploy you.

3) I need to be an _____ before God can use me.

I love **John 4:39**, “*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”* She goes back to town and starts talking to everybody. Eventually there's this massive revival that breaks out where so many people come to know Jesus because of the testimony of this woman.

This is sinful Samaritan woman who's only known Jesus for like five minutes.

So what's your excuse? This breaks through the lie that says, well you need to be a seminary grad or a Bible college professor to share Jesus. After you have come and seen, you are deployed to go and tell.

God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

He's never been looking for great ability. He's just looking for availability.

He wants someone whose life he can fill with his love and who's willing to go and tell the simple story. Come meet Jesus.

4) Following God will never be _____.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is a lie. I point to you the disciples who were just completely shocked:

- baffled when they come back
- baffled he was talking to a woman
- baffled when he told them, I want to go through Samaria
- baffled as to why he sent them to buy food, even though when they get back, he's already fed.

Something should have tipped them off that he sent 12 people to get 13 lunches, right? Clearly, he could have sent a couple of them.

- He wanted them all to go so he could have time alone with her.
- He wanted to show with lavish attention his care for this woman.
- He wanted to single her out as the recipient of a divine audience.
- He wanted her to be one-on-one with the Messiah.

He wasn't hungry, because when they came back, he said, my food is to do the will of the Father. I have food to eat you don't know anything about.

It's a theme all throughout the show as well all throughout the scriptures about following Christ. If you are going to be a disciple of Jesus, to be deployed like this girl

was, to tell her story and see people come to know him, then you and I are going to have to get used to different.

There's going to be so many things about following him that aren't going to make sense, that aren't going to be how we would do it. The Bible says that God doesn't see things the way that the world sees them. Remember, he's a different kind of king. He's inaugurating a different kind of kingdom. That means that we must walk by faith and not by sight.

Our daily questions should be:

- *What is He doing here?"*
- *What is He planned here?*
- *What does He have for me here?*

It's never going to be how we would plan it. It's going to be so much better than that.