

John 4:3-29 (NASB)

3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He \*came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 There \*came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus \*said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman \*said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She \*said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He \*said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus \*said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus \*said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman \*said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus \*said to her, "I who speak to you am He." 27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and \*said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"

3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He \*came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph;

To begin to grasp what is going on here, we first must understand something about what Christ is doing by walking through Samaria.

**Who were the Samaritans?** Six hundred years before this, the Assyrians conquered this area of northern Israel and they deported all the wealthy and middle-class Jews from the area. Then they moved in a pagan population from afar. These pagans intermarried with the lowest classes of remaining Jews in northern Israel, and from these people came the Samaritans.

**Jews hated the Samaritans** They considered them compromising half-breeds who corrupted the worship of the true God. "There was deep-seated prejudice, amounting almost to hatred, standing between the Jews and the Samaritans." (LaSor)

James and John (and the other disciples as well) once thought that the Samaritans were only good for being **torched by God's judgment**:

**Luke 9:51-56 (NASB)** 51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; 52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. 54 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; 56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."] And they went on to another village.

So we can see that Jews and Samaritans did not have friendly interactions...there was a deep seated disdain for each other.

Notice what verse 4 says:

#### **4 And He had to pass through Samaria.**

*Many of the Jews chose not to go through Samaria. They traveled the hot desert road from Jerusalem to Jericho, and up the Jordan valley. Thus, because of the terrible prejudice that prevailed against the Samaritan people, they journeyed almost twice the distance on a much hotter and more uncomfortable road. But Jesus...went through Samaria.*

- Ray Stedman

#### **6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.**

**Wearied** - kopiaō (ko-pē-ä'-ō) - to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief), to labour with wearisome effort,

Jesus was human. We see yet again His humanity. As we've seen previously, Jesus lived this life as a man.

**It was about the sixth hour** - This is most likely 6pm in the evening. Most of the other gospels when they record time they spoke of it in the Jewish time of day but John's gospel, which was written to evangelize to Rome, was written for the Roman time of day.

- This woman who comes to the well is coming rather late in the day to get water. Why? Is it to avoid people possibly?

#### **7 There \*came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus \*said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.**

**Give me a drink** - Did Jesus need for this woman to get Him a drink? I would think not. This is the same individual who turned water into wine, He walked on water...He created water! He could have gotten Himself a drink. He said this in order to engage in conversation with this woman.

The request took the woman aback.

#### **9 Therefore the Samaritan woman \*said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)**

We have already highlighted the strained relationship that existed between Jews and Samaritans. Notice that something else is stated. She doesn't just say a Samaritan she says a Samaritan woman.

Women in Jewish culture were considered second class ("*Thank you God for not making me a woman*"...Siddur, sit separately at Synagogue, in ancient culture they were instructed to walk six paces behind a man etc).

The fact that Christ would sit like this and have interaction with a woman like this broke cultural norms and this woman noticed it.

**10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."**

**"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."**

This can be passed over sometimes but it's significance can't be missed. What does Christ tell her is required for this living water (salvation)?

Notice there are no spiritual gymnastics to go through, no repentance of sins, no classes that are required, no actions or works period...simply ask.

**John 6:35 (NASB)** 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

The author of salvation is showing us how He would witness to someone. How cruel would it be for Him to not give each and every requirement of salvation when offering it?

**11 She \*said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"**

1. We get to see a little more of this woman's attitude and character here. Notice her response to Jesus. It comes across a little bit "sassy" doesn't it maybe even a little bold? This woman has had failed relationship after failed relationship. I wonder if she came to a point where she had chosen bitterness towards men as her first response.
2. Notice also she thinks Christ is referring to the water that is in the well. She therefore tells Him that if He thinks He can magically make this water "living water" than is He making Himself greater than Jacob. Jacob and his family and his animals drank of it. Jacob didn't offer this well's water to people and call it living and Jacob was pretty high up in God's food chain.

**13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."**

**"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; -**

**There is nothing that this world can offer that will ever satisfy indefinitely. It always fades.**

Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon (King David's son). We find in Ecclesiastes that Solomon gave into his desire to experience everything that this world had to offer. He did this to see what kind fulfillment would come from it. We see very early in Ecclesiastes the results of this kind of pursuit:

**Ecclesiastes 2:1,4-11,17 (NLT)** 1 I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the

'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless...4 I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. 7 I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. 8 I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! 9 So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. 10 Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. 11 But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless--like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere...17 So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless--like chasing the wind.

The bible provides us an opportunity to review the life of a man who pursued it all and at the end of his life was able to say that it's all completely unfulfilling. Solomon says **"So I hated life"**.

***"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again"***

**14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."**

I love the analogy of water. I'm sure many of you have heard the analogy of salvation being like someone having a dollar bill in their hand and all you have to do is take it. I love this analogy because in this analogy we see us taking something and consuming it. It goes inside of us.

There is a part inside of all of us, a **hidden part**, that only He knows and only He can touch and restore. I love the idea of water because unlike the bill analogy the water analogy gets closer to the heart of what Christ is doing for us. He restores a dead part inside of you and me that only He knows. A dead part that needs to "come alive"...thus "living" water is offered.

That is the water He is offering here to this woman.

**15 The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He \*said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus \*said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."**

**15 The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."**

Some have interpreted the woman's response as still a little bit testy. I tend to believe that Jesus was beginning to get her attention. She obviously didn't quite understand what Jesus was offering but we do see her level of interest in obtaining this living water.

Notice she says **"so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw"**, it is said that there was another well in town. A well that was closer to draw water from but she would come to this one, later in the day and away. Possibly because she was an outcast and she didn't want to nor did the other women of the village want to be around her. So she says **nor come all the way here to draw**.

What a mess our sin makes in our lives.

***Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and***

***cost you more than you want to pay.— unknown***

This woman's history of sin had control of her life.

**16 He \*said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."** He is doing what Jesus does, He wants to address the real issue that is keeping this woman's heart and her in bondage.

**Mark 10:17-22 (NIV)** 17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

**Romans 5:20 (NLT)** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

We see here that this man has the same problem as the woman we are studying. While the two of them couldn't look anymore different externally they both had the same problem...they were relying on themselves to have their needs met.

**17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus \*said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."**

What did Jesus do? He reached over and He took her mask off. The mask that she wore and most likely clung to as her identity, not completely happy that she had it but also too afraid to take it off and put it down for fear that anyone would accept her for who she was.

It's as if Jesus is saying: "I'm not interested in meeting the person you are projecting yourself to be. I want to talk to the person behind the mask. The person you believe I don't want to meet or wouldn't accept. I already know that person and that's the person I desire to talk to and to begin a healing process with. Allow me to talk to her."

**Psalms 51:6 (NASB)** Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

I wonder if for this woman in her searching to find fulfillment in that place deep inside she **looked to men and romantic love for fulfillment**. Christ, in His infinite wisdom about her, knew this and He meets her right in that hidden place and shows her truth.

If you are this woman...what are you thinking?

**19 The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.** She now believes that this person is more than just any regular man. Notice there also isn't any snappy or witty comebacks here. Jesus has answered so accurately that she now calls Him a prophet. Why? Because He's right about what He said.

**20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."**

*...because they were not allowed by the Jews in Jerusalem to help with the temple or to enter into*

*the worship there, they began to establish their own worship center on Mount Gerizim, making their own sacrifices there and creating quite a breach between the Jews and the Samaritans. And they began to say that it was on Mount Gerizim that Abraham had offered Isaac. They also say that on Mount Gerizim, Solomon had built the temple, that this is the place to worship God. They would discourage other Samaritans from going to Jerusalem to worship God. God is found in this mountain, God is worshipped in this mountain. To the present day, they still offer a sacrificial lamb on Gerezim. They still affirm, those Samaritans that are left, that Gerizim is the place where men find God.*

- Chuck Smith

She's really saying "Where's God, my people say this mountain, your people say Jerusalem, but will you tell me what's truth? I want God, I want life...what I've got going on here isn't life...I've made a mess of this life, tell me where do I go to find God and real life?"

**21 Jesus \*said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.**

**Mark 13:1-2 (NASB)** 1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples \*said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" 2 And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."

Jesus had come to destroy temples and man-made religious buildings. Those were not what He or the Father were about. What He's always wanted and what He's always been about is relationship. He wants a relationship with you and with me. The temples were always a foreshadowing of this;

**23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

**Psalms 51:16-17,19 (NASB)** 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise...19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

He has always intended for it to be about your heart. Not the actions themselves.

**25 The woman \*said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."**

This is a little bit of an intriguing response to what Jesus just said. But it makes sense when we read again that Jesus says "an hour is coming"...this woman seems to understand that the Messiah is going to in some way remove these barriers to being able to worship wholeheartedly.

**When that One comes, He will declare all things to us** - I wonder if inside of her there's been a longing for that day for the day that the Messiah would be unveiled. This not knowing where to find God, this mess she's made of her life the shallowness of everything...maybe He would be able to fix all of this.

And then Jesus says something that had to make her heart stop:

**26 Jesus \*said to her, "I who speak to you am He."**

Imagine what this woman's mind is trying to process right now. Have you had a time in your life when you heard news that was too big to comprehend in the moment that your ears took it in that you kind of just froze. I think this woman is there now.

The Messiah, the promised redeemer of Israel was the person she had been speaking to.

Also notice something : **"I who speak to you am He."**

Notice it doesn't say the person you are speaking to....it says ""I who speak *to you*..." Jesus initiated the conversation with the woman. Remember it was Jesus who asked the woman for a drink. It was Jesus who continued to take the conversation in a direction that, if she would follow, would lead her to this revelation.

It's God that draws us and initiates the conversation:

**John 6:44 (NASB)** 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Let us stop for just a moment and think about this exchange...**The Creator of the entire universe** has come down to this planet, put skin on, is sitting at this well, at this very moment with this woman.

What this passage paints so beautifully is:

- His desire for relationship.
- How incredibly **straight forward** He is in revealing Himself. Simple, no games, no gymnastics, just I'm Him. No pomp, no circumstance.
- We are known by Him. How amazing!!

**1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)** 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

**27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and \*said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"**

I wonder if Christ just continued to lock His gaze on the woman. Notice what the passage says: **and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?"**

You know when you come into a room and two people have been having a very heavy conversation and everyone just walking in can tell. They can tell that something intimate has been discussed and shared between people because it's all over their faces. I think that's what the disciples saw, it was awkward and uncomfortable which is why no said anything. Her focus breaks from Him, she notices the men and then I want you to look at what she does:

**28 So the woman left her waterpot,**

**Remember what she said to Jesus "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty..."** She wasn't thirsty for the kind of water one needs a water pot for anymore.

Isn't it amazing how little our temporal need means to us when our eternal need has been met?

Notice now this woman leaves what seemed like an important task and goes and starts speaking about something much loftier:

**29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"**

What is going through this woman's mind as she is going back to the village to tell everyone? We know one thing: **"Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done..."**

**Remember when their conversation really started to turn and get her attention? It was when Christ pointed out that He knew about those husbands and He knew what was going on in her heart. She called Him a prophet.**

**What is she referencing back to now? That very thing. "Come see a man who told me all the things that I have done."**

That I've done...at some point did it go through her mind, this man knows about my insecurities with men, my mistakes with them, my unflattering ways and yet He still began a **conversation** with me, He still sat and **talked** with me, He still **revealed** Himself to me, He still **(dare she think it) loved me despite** what I had done?

This is what is amazing about Jesus, you are not the sum of what you do. You are His creation and He loves you, not because of what you've done, what you're doing or what you're going to do, He loves you because you are a treasure to Him and you are His.

**39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done."**

Aren't you glad He decided to talk to you? He decided to go out of His way to meet you at well somewhere in your life?

**Luke 19:10 (NASB)** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."