

Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman
(One Woman's Changed Life)

John 4:1-26
Key Verse 26

"Then Jesus declared, 'I who speak to you am he.'"

Introduction

1. Read verses 1-6 and look at a map of Judea during the time of Jesus. Where was Jesus going and why did he have to go through Samaria? Read 2 Kings 17:24, 34. What does it teach you that Jesus did not avoid going through Samaria although Jews did? Describe Jesus' physical condition.
 - Verse 4:4. To Jesus, religion wasn't the issue, nor was race or nationalism, as these things could not divide or make anyone better than another. All are sinners, in need of Jesus' gospel. Romans 3:23.
2. Read verses 7 and 8. Who came to the well and why would she draw water alone in the heat of the day? (17-18) Think about who Jesus is and who the woman is. Why would it be difficult for them to talk together? What does this tell you about Jesus who began the conversation by asking her for a favor?
 - What can Jesus do for this woman, who is wounded and broken? Her problem doesn't seem to be a religious one, or a health one, or some obvious thing. Rather, she is deeply wounded by relationship problems: five ex-husbands and all the wounded family members.
3. Read verse 9. What does this woman's response to Jesus' request show about her? Read verse 10. What did he offer to give her if she asked? (Ro 6:23) what does this tell us about Jesus?
 - Very sensitive about a minor thing! She brings up religious issue about a glass of water. Likely, Jesus' humility and reaching out to her first shocked her.
 - Jesus talks about the gift of God. Living water.
 - Jesus wants to give her the gift of God, and he introduces himself as the one to give it. This produces in her desire for who Jesus is and how he could do this.
4. Read verses 11-15. When she saw Jesus from a human perspective, why was she puzzled by Jesus' offer and why would she talk about Jacob? How is the living water Jesus gives different from the water in Jacob's well? (Rev 22:1; Jn 7:38; Jn 1:4) How did she respond? Why? Note the progress in their relationship.
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5. Read verses 16-18. What did Jesus tell her to do and how does this command touch her real life problem? When the woman said, "I have no husband," in what respect was she telling the truth and in what respect was she evading the truth? How did Jesus receive her answer?
 - Jesus now exposes.
 - Jesus knows all, but he doesn't condemn her.
6. Read verses 19-20. Why did she talk about the place of worship? What is worship? In what respect

was her problem a worship problem? Read 21-24. What did Jesus teach about God, about salvation and about worship? What kind of worshipers does God seek?

- Begins to struggle with the question, “Who is Jesus?” A prophet.
 - Real problem: trying to satisfy her longing for God and salvation with the love of men, particularly a husband. Still under the curse.
7. Read verses 25 and 26. What does Jesus declare about himself? What does this declaration mean to the woman and what effect did this have on her life? (28-30; 39-42) what does this passage teach us about what it means to be born again?
- She brings this up, the Messiah, understanding from the Christ is Salvation.
 - Sin separates us from God. Worshiping other things than God. Jesus came to forgive and save us from sin. Born again is to be healed from past life, live a new life.