

Session 9

The woman at the well

Intro

Last week we looked at the woman who bled for 12 years and we saw that Jesus cares for every inch of our lives.

Part 1

Today we will be looking at a woman who met Jesus by a well.

Just a little bit of context before we begin. At the time of Jesus, the Jews and Samaritans (people who live in a place called Samaria) didn't like each other. They had different beliefs, and the Jews thought what the Samaritans believed was wrong, so there was a lot of tension between the two peoples.

The woman who we will be looking at today was a Samaritan. She lived in Samaria. She was also at the well in the middle of the day when it was very hot. Usually, the women would go together in groups when it was not so hot. So, we know already that there is something unusual about why she is there at this time of day by herself.

"When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The 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.)

¹⁰Jesus 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."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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."

¹⁵The 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."

John 4:7-15

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What do you think of the woman so far?
- ◀ What do you think life was like for the woman?

Craft Time

Part 2

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ 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.”

John 4:16-18

We now know that she has had 5 husbands and is living with another man. In those days, this would have been frowned upon. We don't know the reason why she has had so many husbands. The fact that she was getting water in the heat of the day suggests she would have been looked down on and judged heavily by others. It seems they didn't want to be seen with her. However, Jesus doesn't condemn her. He interacts with her, crossing cultural boundaries.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What would she have thought about herself?**
- ▶ **In what ways do you relate to the woman at the well?**
- ▶ **Have you ever felt or feared others' judgement on you/been rejected by others?**

Craft Time

Part 3

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ 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. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

John 4:19-26

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What do you think the woman would have been thinking and feeling?**
- ▶ **What do you think about what Jesus says?**
(May need to explain what Messiah means)

Craft Time

Part 4



²⁷ 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?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

John 4:27-30

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.”

John 4:39-42

Discussion Questions

- ▶ How did Jesus treat the woman at the well?
- ▶ Have you ever thought about how Jesus would treat you?
- ▶ What was it that made her so excited to tell everyone about him?

Craft Time

Summary

At the beginning, when we met her, she was not acknowledged by others and was avoided, possibly because of her life situation.

Jesus gently spoke to her, breaking that barrier between the Jews and the Samaritans. Her past, and where she came from, didn’t stop Jesus from reaching out to her.

Jesus restored her. Jesus shared the good news of who He was with her, and she then shared that with others. They believe her, and she is acknowledged by others. She is no longer an outcast, and she is one of the first women to spread the good news to others in the Bible.

“She came for drinking water and left with living water.”

Water can be used for many things: washing, drinking and for fun. The living water of Jesus is to be drunk, and he washes us outside and in, it is a joyful life.

God wants all of us to come to him, whatever our pasts and wherever we come from. This is good news for us all. This living water can save, restore and redeem. It can be ours if we want it to be.

