

HER FAITH – ✝ – HIS POWER

WOMEN WHO TRUSTED GOD
AND CHANGED HISTORY



The Woman at the Well – John 4:1-42

Why did Jesus purposely travel to a remote well in the despised Samaritan region to meet with a social outcast, and what does that tell us about the kind of Savior Jesus is?

Waiting at the Well

John's gospel tells us that Jesus "had to travel through Samaria" (John 4:4). Devout Jews avoided the Samaritan region and went out of their way to avoid contact with these people they considered "half-breed Jews." But Jesus intentionally stopped at a place the Jews avoided to seek out a person everyone avoided.

The fact that the woman came alone during the heat of the day to fill her water jug tells us she was a social outcast. The other women wanted nothing to do with her. But Jesus waited for her at Jacob's well and then asked her for a drink. This whole interaction was beyond scandalous and broke multiple social barriers – gender, ethnicity, and morality.

Even the woman was shocked and said, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9). Jesus responded with an offer that shifted the conversation from physical thirst to spiritual thirst. He said, "If you knew the gift of God...you would have asked for living water." (John 4:10)

A Thirst Beyond Water

When she asked about this living water, Jesus gently let her know he knew all about her personal life. She had had five husbands, she was not married to the man she was living with, and her whole village shunned her. But Jesus didn't use this information to condemn her as others did. Instead, he used this as a moment of grace to begin healing her.

As her faith was being challenged, the woman tried to change the subject by asking about worship rituals. But Jesus told her that true worship was not about rituals. It was about a changed heart. He said that knowing and following God was not about going to a certain building but about building a life surrendered to God regardless of location.

Then came the moment when he revealed himself to her. Jesus told her that he was the long-awaited Messiah. This was the first time Jesus had openly identified himself as the Messiah. In response, she immediately left her water jar and ran to town to tell others about him. And many of the Samaritans from the town believed in Jesus because of her testimony.

Going Out of the Way for Us

Imagine that - Jesus went out of his way to reveal his Messiahship for the first time to a Samaritan woman with a sinful past, rather than to the devout Jewish leaders. His revelation shows us that God's grace toward us is not limited by our past, our reputation, or our social standing. God's grace is freely available to all who trust Jesus by faith.

This woman's encounter with Jesus led her through three steps that we can also apply to our lives as we draw closer to our Risen Messiah.

Spiritual Thirst – We all have a deep thirst that water cannot quench. We long to be loved and accepted by others. We regret our past. We have hopes for the future. But the well of the world always runs dry when we try to satisfy ourselves from it. Jesus offers us something deeper and longer-lasting that will satisfy our souls' thirst forever.

Truth That Heals – We often try to hide our wounds, failures, and sins, because we fear that, if someone knew who we really were, they would reject us. But Jesus already knows all about us, like he knew the woman's full life story. Yet he searches us out and invites us to drink deeply from his grace without judgment or condemnation.

A Changed Life – When we honestly encounter Jesus, our priorities shift. The things we once clung to begin to lose their importance. The closer we grow to the Lord, the further we grow from the world. The more we focus on the things of God, the more we are restored to live for a new purpose.



Joy For Your Journey,

Andy Raub

andy@andyraub.com