



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: A WOMAN OF GREAT SPIRITUAL THIRST

INTRODUCTION

A nameless woman crossed Jesus' path one day. She was a Samaritan, descendants of the Jews that had intermarried with the Assyrians. They settled in Samaria which is located in the Promised Land. This was a direct violation of God's law. The Jews disassociated themselves from them, and viewed the Samaritans as aliens. To the Jews the woman of Samaria was a cast off, a poor sinner. It was an . . . *unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation* (Acts 10:28). The Rabbinic precept affirmed that a man should not speak in public to a woman and the law should be burned rather than taught publicly to a woman.

Jesus, who came to be the Savior of the world, appointed a day in His eternal calendar to meet with this rejected woman. He lovingly drew her to Himself and revealed Himself to her as the Living Water who alone can quench man's spiritual thirst.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Name Given to the Woman in this Story

Woman of Samaria *A woman of Samaria came to draw water* (NKJV, John 4:7).
She was a Samaritan, a name that brought deep-rooted conflict and rejection from within the Jewish society.

SECTION I – Breaking Down the Barriers

READ John 4:1-9.

1. What did Jesus become aware of that caused Him to leave Judea¹ (vv. 1-3)? _____

Who was actually doing the baptizing? _____

Where was Jesus' destination? _____²

2. What area did He need to go through (v. 4)? _____

Samaria was on the direct route between Judea to Galilee. However, because of the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans, many Jews, to avoid the Samaritans, would take a longer route and travel on the east side of the Jordan River as they went back and forth from Galilee and Judea.

LOOK DEEPER

FIND a map of Palestine in Jesus' time; LOCATE the areas of Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

3. In what part of Samaria do we find Jacob's well (vv. 5, 6)? _____

How was Jesus when He arrived at the well? _____

At what hour did He arrive? _____

John, in his Gospel, is very careful to show Jesus in His deity³ as well as His humanity.

4. Who arrived on the scene when Jesus came to the well? Why (v. 7a)? _____

¹ Judea: fifty-five miles north to south and east to west, extending from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, with its northern boundary at Joppa and its southern a few miles south of Gaza; named Judea after the exiles from Babylon who returned there from the tribe of Judah.

² Galilee - Greek *he Galilaia* the ring or circuit: the most northerly of the three provinces of Palestine (Galilee, Samaria, and Judea); fifty miles north to south and thirty miles east to west. The northern boundary extended from Phoenicia to Dan; and the southern boundary from the base of Mt. Carmel and the Samaritan hills to Mt. Gilboa and Bethshean to the Jordan.

³ deity: the character or nature of the Supreme Being, Christ as the Son of God.

The Jewish day runs from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the sixth hour is noontime. It was customary for water to be drawn at sunrise or sunset rather than noontime when the heat was at its greatest. It was unusual and significant that this woman was at the well at this time.

5. What did Jesus request of her (v. 7b)? _____

6. Where were the disciples (v. 8)? _____

7. What perplexed her about Jesus' request (v. 9)? _____

By going through Samaria and talking with this woman, Jesus broke through the barriers of nationality and orthodox⁴ Jewish customs. We see Jesus demonstrate His love in action.

SECTION 2 – Living Water

READ John 4:10-15.

1. Although the woman identified Jesus as a Jew, how did He begin to make Himself known to her (v. 10)?

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures say about *living water* and its source?

John 7:37-39 _____

5

Revelation 7:17 _____

6

Revelation 21:6 _____

7

⁴ orthodox: traditional practices of Judaism.

⁵ Spirit: the third Person of the Triune God; God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

⁶ Lamb: Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29).

⁷ Alpha and Omega: the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:1 _____

Revelation 22:17 _____⁸

2. Not grasping the spiritual analogy that He is giving to her about Himself, what did she question (John 4:11, 12)?

3. What did Jesus say about the water from Jacob's well (v. 13)? _____

4. Drawing her to Himself, what did He state about the water that He gives (v. 14)? _____

5. Desiring to have her thirst quenched, what did she desire from Him (v. 15)? _____

The water Jesus supplies is not water to satisfy a recurring physical need. Jesus is the fountain of Living Water the source of unfailing spiritual, life-giving water. His Living Water will quench all of our spiritual human needs.

PERSONAL

If you have drank of the Living Water, how have you found His statements to be true? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What additional truths do the following verses say about the *Living Water*?

Isaiah 44:3 _____

⁸ the Bride: the Lord's church; the saints; the Body of Believers.

Isaiah 55:1 _____

Jeremiah 2:13 _____

SECTION 3 – Facing the Truth

READ John 4:16-26.

1. How did Jesus direct the woman to her spiritual thirst (v. 16)? _____

In New Testament times, a woman had to call her husband before engaging in a serious discussion with a man.

2. What was the woman's reply (vv. 17, 18)? _____

What truth does Jesus reveal to her? _____

3. Realizing that he must be a great spiritual man, what did she perceive (v. 19)? _____

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Jesus was well aware of the Samaritan's immorality, yet He still took the time to reveal tremendous truths to her.

LOOK DEEPER

Jesus is more than just a prophet, He is God, and He is omniscient!¹⁰ What do the following Scriptures say about Christ's omniscience?

John 1:47-49 _____

Who did Nathanael declare Jesus was? _____

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John 2:24, 25 _____

⁹ Prophet: one who is divinely inspired to communicate God's will to His people and disclose the future to them.

¹⁰ omniscient: having complete and infinite knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving and knowing all things.

¹¹ Rabbi: Master, Teacher.

Hebrews 4:13 _____

I John 3:20 _____

4. Comprehending this was a religious conversation, what was her argument (John 4:20)? _____

To avoid the issue of her sin, the Samaritan woman turned the conversation to the long standing conflict between the Jews over the place of worship. Yet Jesus wanted to teach her that the spirit of worship was more important than the place of worship.

5. What did Jesus say about the worship¹² of God in the following verses?

v. 21 _____

v. 22 _____

v. 23 _____

v. 24 _____

6. Not knowing who Jesus was, what did the woman already know about Him (v. 25)? _____

13

7. Jesus unveiled the mystery. Who is He (v. 26)? _____

¹² worship: lovingly adore; give wholehearted devotion to.

¹³ Messiah - Greek anointed: name of Christ; the Coming One, in NKJV it is Messiah.

PERSONAL

Who is Jesus to you? _____

What or whom do you worship? _____

How do you know if you worship God in spirit and in truth? _____

SECTION 4 – Sharing the Wonder

READ John 4:27-42.

1. What was the disciples' reaction when they saw Jesus speaking to a woman (v. 27)? _____

2. Where did the woman go and who did she speak with (v. 28)? _____

What did she leave behind? _____

3. What did she invite the city to do (v. 29)? _____

Who did she believe the Man to be? _____

PERSONAL

When was the last time you invited someone to meet Jesus? _____

Have you told others of your personal encounter with Christ and the tremendous things He has done for you? What effect did it have on those who heard?

4. How did the people of the city respond to the woman's testimony¹⁴ (v. 30)? _____

5. At this time, what were the disciples more concerned with (v. 31)? _____

Jesus took another opportunity to teach the disciples a lesson concerning eternal matters over temporal concerns. At this time He had them lift up their eyes to the fields which were ripe for harvest. He was pointing them to the spiritual harvest that was to come. Because of the Samaritan woman's testimony, many people from the city came to see and hear Him. The Lord had sowed seeds (His Word) into the woman's heart, now there was a great harvest of souls to be reaped.

6. The disciples wanted to feed Jesus, what did Christ spiritually feed on (vv. 31-34)? _____

7. What did Christ teach His disciples concerning soul-winning (vv. 35-38)? _____

8. How was the testimony she gave successful (v. 39)? _____

9. What request did the Samaritan's have of Jesus (v. 40)? _____

10. What caused more to believe in Jesus (vv. 41, 42)? _____

Who did they confess Jesus to be? _____

PERSONAL

Do you know Him as Christ, the Savior of the world? Explain.

¹⁴ testimony: witness, personal experience, proclaiming the truths of the Gospel and bearing witness to the power of these truths.

What spiritual harvest (fruit) have you seen in the lives of others because of your personal witness of Jesus Christ?

Remember that God loves us all and wants everyone to accept His gift of salvation.

MEMORY VERSE.

(John 4:24).

Isn't it wonderful to think that Jesus goes out of His way to seek out one lost sinner! The Samaritan woman's brief encounter with Christ brings enormous significance into our lives. He knows everything about us. He wants us to know Him intimately. He desires to become our personal Savior, cleanse us of our sins and give us eternal life. He gives value to those who ordinarily would be considered worthless in the eyes of men. The Samaritan woman teaches us the difference He can make in our lives when we drink the water that only He can give. She had an empty and unfulfilled life, which He filled with Himself and, in turn, overflowed in loving testimony to others. Her life became of great service to her Messiah and King.

NOTES: _____

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