

The Four Gospels of the Bible, Samaritan Woman at the Well

John 4: 5 - 42

⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. (NIV)

Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

*The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "**How come you, a Jew,** are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)*

*Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, **and I would give you fresh, living water.**"*

The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

*Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. **The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.**"*

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"

He said, "Go call your husband and then come back."

"I have no husband," she said.

"That's nicely put: 'I have no husband.' You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough."

"Oh, so you're a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?"

"Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God's way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

*"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: **those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship.** God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."*

*The woman said, "I don't know about that. **I do know that the Messiah is coming.** When he arrives, we'll get the whole story."*

"I am he," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn't believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

H. Kirk Rainer

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The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, "Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?" And they went out to see for themselves.

Class does not matter to Christ

The Message offers some insight of the scripture through that enclosed in parentheses. Jesus encounter with a Samaritan (and a woman at that) is unusual – as noted; Samaritans were considered a lower class and, furthermore, a woman. Whether Jesus knew of her class was of no consequence; he was lead by the Spirit to speak to her – to tell her about salvation and to reveal himself as the Messiah.

Fresh, Living Water

What kind of water is this? Water that satisfies always; water that refreshes and brings life eternal; and water that is found no where but in Christ...

What kind of People (is Christ looking for)

"Those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship" is the kind of people Christ is looking for...and those who "know the Messiah is coming."

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