

The Samaritan Woman

Our Deepest Need

Text: John 4:1-26

If Jesus was physically here and you had that one-off opportunity to sit next to Him and ask a question, what question would that be?

In the Bible, there was one woman who took advantage of that one-off opportunity. She received the greatest answer and left that place a brand-new person.

For the Jews, Samaria was the last place they'd go to. But JESUS, being led by the Holy Spirit, was compelled to go to Samaria.

Background - The Samaritan Woman

During Jesus' time, drawing water and chatting at the well was the social highpoint of a woman's day. Twice each day, morning and evening, women came to draw water.

There was no shopping mall, no internet, no social media, no electronic devices like what we have now.

It was the place for women to socialise and talk to their friends.

This Samaritan woman came at noon to avoid meeting people who knew her reputation. She was an outcast and looked down by her own people.

By the time she got to the well, Jesus was already there and Jesus took notice of her.

She was totally surprised as the Jews did not want to associate with Samaritans.

There was an ongoing racial divide between the two groups. The Jewish people and Samaritans were not in speaking terms.

Both sides had the same question, but both had different answers.

Jesus remained focused on the real issue.

What did Jesus mean by living water?

In the OT many verses speak of thirsting after God, as one thirsts for water.

God is called *the fountain of life* and *the fountain of living waters*. (Ps. 42:1; Zech. 13:1).

As our bodies hunger and thirst, so do our souls. Our souls need spiritual food and water.

Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah and only the Messiah could give this gift that satisfies the longing of the human soul.

The woman did not immediately understand what Jesus was talking about when He said He would give living water that could forever quench a person's thirst for God.

John 4:13-14

¹³ *Jesus 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.”*

For that living water to flow, Jesus had to remove the blockage.

She was amazed when Jesus revealed to her, her true identity – her past life.

Jesus directed the conversation to a much more important point that answered her question on worship.

Jesus responded to her that it was not *the place of worship* but *how to worship*.

Worship is not about the place. Worship is all about the condition of our heart.

She finally found out that the man who was talking to her was the very person that she's been looking for – JESUS – the Messiah.

Lessons we can learn from the story:

1. Jesus values us regardless of our past

In Jesus, our value does not and will not change.

We are created in the image of God and His plans for us will never change.

Ex. \$50 is equivalent to \$50.

Its value and worth doesn't change.

The \$50 bill may be old, squashed, crumpled and dirty with many marks but the value is still the same.

- *He has holy plans when He created you.* Jeremiah 1:5
- *His plans for you are always upward.* Prov. 15:24
- *He has a wonderful plan for your life.* Jeremiah 29:11

Our value is not determined by our valuables or by our own achievements and accomplishments.

Regardless of your social status, you are important and precious to Him.

2. Our deepest need is spiritual not physical

For the Samaritan woman, at first, finding fulfilment through human relationship was her first approach.

That encounter with Jesus answered her long-standing question and revealed her true and deepest need.

She then understood that worship is about the condition of the heart and not about the place.

It is a response, a deep yearning and longing of a human heart to be in the glorious presence of God, our Creator.

Sin disconnected us from the source of LIVING WATER. And because we are disconnected from the source, we end up longing for something that only Jesus can fill.

Rick Warren in his book, the Purpose Driven Life, raised the question, **WHAT DRIVES YOUR LIFE?**

- a. Many are driven by guilt*
- b. Many are driven by resentment and anger*
- c. Many are driven with fear*
- d. Many are driven by materialism*
- e. Many are driven by approval*

Our heart is restless not until we rest our heart in God.

The greatest miracle is not healing or provision. The greatest miracle is when a person repents and receives the gift of salvation and experiences God's Presence bringing change in his/her heart and life.

John 7:38 *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'*

3. Jesus alone can satisfy our spiritual need

Not unless we come to Christ, will we be forever thirsty.

John 4:13,14 *“Jesus answered... 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.”*

The woman at the well found Christ and found:

- hope in her hopeless situation
- answer to the deep longings of her soul
- rest in her troubled and restless life
- a new beginning

Never ever think that no one has taken notice of you because He has – Jesus did.

Jesus alone is the answer to our deepest need.