

WOMAN AT THE WELL

(Leaving the Jar Behind)

Main Text: John 4:1-28

The story of the Samaritan woman mirrors our own:

- the things we hide
- the pain we carry
- the thirst we ignore
- the love we long for
- the jars we cling to, hoping they will fill what only God can satisfy

Aim of Message:

To reveal Jesus who meets us, heals us, fills us, and frees us from the jars we cling to

JESUS IN PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS

- Jesus changed lives not only in crowds but through personal, intimate moments:
Nicodemus, the woman with the issue of blood, the thief on the cross, Mary at the tomb, Zacchaeus, the Emmaus disciples.
- He doesn't just speak **to** people – He speaks **into** people.
- John 4 shows one of His most tender encounters: the Samaritan woman at the well.

JESUS MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

- Jesus “needed to go through Samaria.”
- Most Jews avoided Samaria; Jesus walked right into it.
- He sat at the well **at noon**, the hottest hour – the moment this woman would be alone.
- Women came to the well early morning for community; she came alone because:
 - shame isolates
 - whispers burn
 - judgment wounds
 - she was avoiding people
- He breaks cultural, racial, gender, moral, and religious barriers.
- He wasn't looking for water – **He was looking for her.**
- She wasn't seeking Jesus, but Jesus was seeking *her* – and He seeks us the same way.

LIVING WATER FOR A THIRSTY SOUL

Earthly Wells vs. Living Water

- John 4:13–14 – She came for physical water; Jesus offered **Living Water**.
- She sought satisfaction through relationships:
 - five husbands
 - another man now
 - looking for love, identity, security, belonging

- But every well ran dry.

Illustration: Israel in the Wilderness (Ex.17)

- Israel thirsted; God made water flow from the rock.
- Paul reveals: *“That Rock was Christ.”*
- Christ is the unfailing source when our soul is thirsty.

Illustration: Broken Cisterns (Jeremiah 2:13)

- People turn to self-made solutions, false identities, addictions, distractions, achievements.
- These are **broken wells** – leaking, empty, temporary.
- All earthly wells eventually dry up.
- **Only Jesus satisfies the soul.**

EXPOSING THE HEART TO HEAL IT

Jesus Reveals Her Wound

- *“Go, call your husband.”*
A gentle sentence that touched her deepest pain.
- Jesus reveals not to **shame**, but to **heal**.
Luke 12:2 – nothing stays hidden
John 8:32 – truth sets free
- Healing begins when honesty begins.

Illustration: David

- David hid his sin; it dried him spiritually (Psalm 32:3–4).
- God sent Nathan – *“You are the man.”*

- When truth broke him open, healing began (Psalm 51).
- Whenever God reveals, He intends to heal.

TRUE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

- She tries to change the subject:
“Which mountain is right for worship?”
- Jesus redirects:
True worship isn’t about place – it’s about posture.

Worship in Spirit

- Flows from a surrendered heart
- A daily lifestyle, not just a Sunday activity

Worship in Truth

- Rooted in God’s Word
- Anchored in who God is, not personal preference

Illustration: Mary of Bethany

- She broke a costly jar of perfume.
- Real worship always costs something.
- Worship is surrender, not performance.
- Worship is not where you stand – it’s the condition of your heart.

LEAVING THE JAR BEHIND

- *“The woman then left her waterpot...”* John 4:28
- Her jar represented:
 - old identity
 - old patterns

- old thirst
- old shame

A Transformed Woman

- The one who hid from people now ran toward people: *“Come, see a Man who told me all things...”*
- Her testimony brought many to Jesus.
- A changed life is the most powerful sermon you can preach.

THE CROSS & THE WELL

- The Living Water Jesus offered flows from Calvary.
- On the cross He said, *“I thirst.”* He became thirsty so we could be filled.
- Once you encounter Jesus:
 - old jars feel too heavy
 - old habits feel too empty
 - old identities feel too small
- Grace changes what we carry and how we walk.

STEPS TO LEAVE THE JAR BEHIND

- **Come honestly.**
Jesus meets the real you, not the masked you.
- **Let Him expose what is hidden.**
The releasing of feeling is the beginning of healing.
- **Drink daily.**
Word, prayer, worship, silence – daily drawing from His well.

- **Leave the jar behind.**
Release what no longer serves God's purpose.
- **Share your testimony.**
Someone needs to hear, "*Come, see a Man...*"

THE CHALLENGE

- What well are you drawing from?
- Is it leaving you thirsty again?
- Which jar is Jesus asking you to let go of?
- What old pattern are you still carrying?

**If the well keeps leaving you empty –
*change wells.***

**If the jar keeps weighing you down –
*leave it at Jesus' feet.***