

John 4:1-26

The Woman at the Well

Read the passage and discuss the following:

1. Why did Jesus go to Galilee?

He heard the Pharisees were upset with what He was doing and He knew the time was not right to confront them. He was traveling back to a place He had been before, friendly territory.

2. What was significant about His route?

It took Him through Samaria, and most Jews would have avoided this route because they were not to associate with Samaritans. Jesus did not avoid the Samaritan route.

3. It was noon when He stopped at the well. Why was no one else at the well at this time?

Most women got their water early in the day. It was unusual for anyone to be at the well at that time. She likely wanted to avoid running into anyone.

4. Jesus encountered a woman there. What did He ask her for and why?

He asked her for a drink. He shows how human He is, He is literally thirsty and had no way to get water on His own. He needed her help! He likely also wanted to start a conversation because He knew what she needed.

5. What is significant about Jesus and this Samaritan woman talking?

He should not have been talking to her because she was a woman, a Samaritan, and an adulteress.

6. What does Jesus reveal that He knows about the woman? Why do you think He brought that up?

He reveals her shameful past. Sin needs to be lovingly confronted, and Jesus knew that this was an issue of shame for her. He also knew that He had the key to free her, and was ready to offer her salvation and grace. He couldn't do that if she didn't realize who He was, that He knew her, and loved her regardless.

7. Read the woman's responses in the conversation with Jesus. How do you think she was feeling in this conversation?

I think she was likely surprised, felt accepted and loved, and a little defensive when He first brought up her past. This quickly turned to feeling loved, humbled, and grateful when she realized what He was offering her.

8. What is the significance of the living water Jesus offers her and us?

The living water offers grace and salvation. It means that we not only have eternal life, a place in heaven, but peace and joy here on earth regardless of our circumstances. It means we have Him with us always.

Now read verses 27-30

9. What did the woman do after this interaction?

She went and told others.

Final thoughts:

Jesus broke customs and did things differently. He offered His gift of grace and salvation to all. What's more, He kept company with and showed love to those that the world would not. There are no prerequisites to salvation. Our knowledge of Him need not be deep and wide to receive His love and salvation. All we need to know is that He is who He says He is in order to have our thirst eternally quenched. Then, like this woman, we can go and tell others, to be the well of Jesus's love to the world around us.