

Thursday 4th March 2021

T: The Samaritan Woman.

John 4:1-40 Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

⁴ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

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."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"
³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.
³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."
³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."
³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"
³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."
³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes
and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a
wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad
together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap
what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped
the benefits of their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's
testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him,
they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

- 1) What state was Jesus in when the woman came?
- 2) What did he ask of her?
- 3) Why was she so opposed to his request?
- 4) What does Jesus offer to the woman?
- 5) Why do you think this was a special gift?
- 6) Jesus changed the woman's view of him. Who did she think he was in the end?
- 7) How do you think this meeting with Jesus might have changed the life of the Samaritan Woman?

CHALLENGE - Write a diary entry/comic strip/script as the Samaritan as next episode in the Story of the Samaritan Woman. Think about some of the things she would have told her friends and neighbors the next day. Imagine her thoughts and feelings the next time she went to the well to draw water.