

Introduction: God's love for broken people is amazing. And it does not matter to Him if others have broken us; or, as is the case with many of us, we have broken ourselves. What He is looking for is people who have been humbled enough to be honest with Him about their condition. ******* The account of how Jesus sought an unfaithful woman at a well outside a Samaritan city illustrates everything I have said and more. So, without wasting any time, let's look at the Gospel account of the Living water who is the Savior of the world, even pagan outcasts.

I. At a planned stop in Sychar, Jesus encounters a woman at a well and commands her to give Him a drink; in the ensuing exchanges, He offers her living water and eternal life. (John 4:4-15)

A. As Jesus makes a planned visit to a city in Samaria, He meets a woman at a well and asks her to give Him a drink, she questions Him. (Verses 4-9)

1. It was being necessary He go through Samaria. (Verse 4)

Longstanding plan: The tense of the verb indicates this was a longstanding plan of Jesus, maybe from the beginning of the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

2. He is coming to a city called Sychar near the ground Jacob gave his son Joseph. (Verse 5)

Sychar: The name means drunkard. Samaria included the land given to Ephraim, Joseph's son. Isaiah called out Ephraim as drunkards (Isaiah 28:1-7).

3. Jacob's well was being there, Jesus had grown weary in His journey and was sitting there at noon. (Verse 6)

Jacob's well: There is no record of Jacob's well in Scripture.

Jesus weary: Jesus had become weary as the sun reached its peak in the sky.

4. A woman from Samaria is coming to draw water and Jesus commands her to give him a drink, His disciples had gone to the city for food to eat. (Verses 7-8)

Woman: That a woman would come in the heat of the day to draw water indicates she was despised by all the other women in the city.

Request: Jesus commands her to give Him a drink of water because He is alone.

5. Then she is saying to Him, 'How thou, a Jew, from me are asking to drink, a Samaritan woman being?' (Verse 9)

Questions command: Jews and Samaritans hated each other. Women were 'under' their husbands.

B. Jesus responds that she is ignorant of God and Him, or she would have asked Him for living water, this prompts two more questions and He responds with an invitation to eternal life. (Verses 10-15)

1. Jesus answered her, 'If thou had known the gift of God and who is being the one commanding thee, thou would have asked and he would and given to thee living water'. (Verse 10)

If knew: Even many Jews did not know Jesus is God's gift to people, so how could she know Him?

Living water: The word 'living' is an active participle, a description of the Person of Jesus. He is revealing to her, in response to her question, that ongoing life is in Him.

Jesus reveals Himself in response to questions

2. The woman is saying to Him, 'Sir! Bucket thou are not having and the well is deep, then where are thou having the living water? Not thou are being greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank from it himself, and his children and cattle?' (Verses 11-12)

Two questions: She questions Him twice about his ability to give her living water. First, he has no physical means to draw water; and, is he greater than the father of all twelve tribes?

3. Jesus answered, 'Each one drinking from this water will thirst again, but whoever may drink of the water I will give not ever will thirst to eternity; but, the water I will give to him will be springing up to life eternal'. (Verses 13-14)

Fact: He begins saying that water from this well is only a temporary remedy for thirst. He says the water He gives will most assuredly quench until eternity.

Promise: Then He says His living water will spring up to eternal life. In response to her two challenging questions, Jesus reveals Himself as the giver of unquenchable eternal life.

Jesus reveals Himself in response to questions

4. She is saying, 'Sir! Thou must give to me this water that I may not thirst, nor be coming here to draw'. (Verse 15)

Misunderstood: She is right to ask for 'this' water, but she can only understand it in the physical sense.

II. Jesus speaks of her husband, she confesses unfaithfulness; He tells of salvation and worship and reveals Himself as Messiah; she testifies to citizens who come to faith in Him; a psalmist asks God to guide him. (John 4:16-26, 39-42; Psalm 43:1-3)

A. Jesus commands her about her husband, she confesses unfaithfulness, He commends her honesty then explicitly tells her story; realizing He is a prophet, she asks about worship and He tells her of salvation. (John 4:16-22)

1. Jesus says, 'Thou must be going, thou must call thy husband to thee and thou must come here'; She answered, 'Not I am having a husband'. (Verses 16-17a)

Command and answer: Jesus commands her to go and speak to her husband and bring him to Himself; but, she answers that she has no husband.

2. Jesus is saying, 'Well thou have said: husband not I am having; because five husbands thou have had, and he thou are having now is not being thy husband: this true thou have spoken'. (Verses 17b-18)

Honesty commended: First and last Jesus declares she has spoken an uncomfortable truth.

Knows her story: He gives her history of having five husbands, then He tells her the man she is now living with will not commit to make her his wife.

3. She is saying, 'Sir! I am seeing that prophet thou are being. Our fathers in this mountain worshipped, you all are saying that in Jerusalem is the place where it is being proper to worship'. (Verses 19-20)

Prophet: Jesus is The Prophet of whom Moses spoke (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).

Worship: The Samaritans worshipped God only according to the Torah. They were missing the prophets and the psalms of which Jesus spoke after His resurrection (Luke 24:44). So they did not have Kings and Chronicles that tell of God choosing Solomon to build His Temple in Jerusalem.

4. Jesus says, 'Thou must believe Me, "hour" is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem you will worship to the Father; you yourselves worship whom thou have not known'. (*Verses 21-22b*)
Coming hour: When Jesus completes His first mission to earth all worship of God will be changed.
Not place: The place of worship will change and will not be of the highest importance.
 5. 'We are worshipping whom we have known, for salvation of the Jews is being'. (*Verse 22c*)
Salvation: The Covenant God of Jacob-Israel, father of Judah, is the one who will save the world. Isaiah spoke of His blessings to all people: the destruction of death (25:6-9), universal prayer (56:6-8), and His glory will be universally proclaimed by a remnant from nations (66:18-22).
- B. Jesus tells her about new worship, greater than Samaritans or Jews, in Spirit and Truth; then He reveals Himself as Messiah! (*John 4:23-26*)
1. 'But "hour" is coming, and now is being, when true worshippers will worship to the Father in Spirit and Truth, for also the Father such is seeking, those worshipping Him'. (*Verse 23*)
Future is now: Jesus says 'hour' is now here for a new way to worship the Father.
Spirit and Truth: It will be in Spirit and Truth, not in location and ritual.
 2. 'Spirit the God, and those worshipping Him, in Spirit and Truth it is necessary to worship'. (*Verse 24*)
God-Spirit: Just as the Gospel began 'Word the God' Jesus now says 'Spirit the God'. This means both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are God, but not all of God. This all clearly speaks to the Trinity.
Spirit and Truth: And of course God is Truth. So, it is necessary that those who are in God's image are worshipping God in Spirit and Truth.
 3. She is saying to Him, the woman, 'I have known that Messiah is coming, which is being called Christ (anointed). When that one may come, He will proclaim to us all things'. (*Verse 25*)
Messiah: This discussion about true worship is more than she can handle. She has shown some knowledge of Messiah and faith in Him. With this she thinks the conversation is over.
 4. Jesus is saying to her, 'I AM who (is) speaking to thee'. (*Verse 26*)
I AM: Jesus brings the conversation to a startling close, applying the divine Name to Himself. He IS Messiah. With this He declares Himself to be the answer to all her questions, and the questions of all.

Jesus reveals Himself in response to questions

CODA: She testifies of Jesus to those in Sychar and they believe in Him, come to Him and hear Him; they request He stay, having known Him as The Savior of the world. (*John 4:39-42*)

1. But many Samaritan citizens believed IN Him through the word of the woman testifying that He told me all that I did. (*Verse 39*)
Faith from testimony: Her encounter with Messiah Jesus resulted in her being changed, and she had to tell everyone about Him. Those of us who have been changed by Jesus need to follow her example.
 2. Therefore, when the Samaritans came to Him, they were requesting Him to stay with them; He stayed there two days. (*Verse 40*)
Came to Jesus: All who come to Jesus in humble faith, and begin to know Him by His self-revelation, have a great desire to stay in His Presence.
Two days: He graciously stayed with them two more days.
 3. Many more believed because of His Word. (*Verse 41*)
Word of Jesus: The Gospel Word of Jesus saves people (Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2).
 4. They were saying to the woman, 'No more because of what thou spoke, we are believing; for indeed, we have heard and we have known that this is being truly The Savior of the world. (*Verse 42*)
Community encounter: Testimony and proclamation is the beginning of salvation. But when a community of people encounters Jesus over time, He becomes truly known to them.
Savior of world: The bottom line for the first century Samaritans is the bottom line for all who experience a revelation of Jesus: the assurance that He is the Savior for all people.
- C. The psalmist requests fair judgment from God, questions his oppression; but, in faith, requests Light and Truth to guide him. (*Psalms 43:1-3*)
1. Thou must judge me God and Thou must plead my cause from people not faithful / from man of deceit and iniquity
 Thou will deliver me. (*Verse 1*)
Request-promise: A son of Korah (Psalm 42, the psalms are one) requests God to judge him fairly and plead for him from the unfaithful; and, he expresses faith in deliverance from immoral people.
 2. Because Thou (are) the God of my strength, why have Thou cast me off? / why mourning will I go in the oppression of the enemy?
 (*Verse 2*)
Questions: Declaring God's strength, he expresses doubt. This is similar to the father of the possessed young man in Mark's Gospel: I am believing, Thou must be helping my unbelief (Mark 9:24).
 3. Thou must send Thy Light and Thy Truth, they will lead me / they will bring me to the mount of Thy holiness / and into Thy dwelling places. (*Verse 3*)
Light and Truth: In faith, he requests God to send His Light and Truth to guide him. He believes these will lead him to the place where God's holiness is dwelling. This is now fulfilled for all who are in Jesus, the Light of the world (John 12:44-46) sent by Father God.

God sends His guiding Light

Conclusion: Jesus chose to encounter an unfaithful Samaritan woman at a well to reveal Himself to her. He answered her questions about Him and revealed Himself as the giver of living water and eternal life. Then He told her of a new way of worship to all who come to God in Spirit and Truth. When He reveals Himself as the divine Messiah, she testifies to Him and many believe IN Him.

Jesus reveals Himself in response to questions