

Lesson 5a More than a Carpenter

Jesus Offers Living Water

John 4:5-42

5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. The Woman of Samaria 7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." 27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." The Samaritans 39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

Something to Do

Answer the questions from the lesson.

1. What feelings did Jesus have which show us He was also truly human? (verse 6)

"Jesus therefore, being _____ from His journey..."

2. What did Jesus say to the woman of Samaria? (7)

"Jesus said to her, " _____ Me a drink."

3. Why was she surprised that Jesus would speak to her? (9)

“How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a _____ woman?”

The Samaritans were descendants of Jews and foreigners who had married Jews. They did not worship just the God of Israel but false gods as well. When the true Jews rebuilt their temple in Jerusalem, they would not allow Samaritans to help them. But Jesus was always interested in every individual person; He was interested in every person's needs, even though it was not the custom for a Jewish man to speak to a woman in public.

4. What would Jesus have given this woman if she had known to ask? (10)

“He would have given you _____ water.”

5. What would be the difference between drinking the well water and drinking the water Jesus gave? (13, 14)

6. What did Jesus know about this woman? (18)

Jesus knows the secret sins of each of us.

7. When Jesus pointed out her sin to her, what subject did the woman bring up? (20)

“Our fathers _____ on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to _____.”

Samaritans worshipped at their own temple on Mt. Gerizim. They believed in only the first five books of the Old Testament. Do you like to discuss “religion” instead of getting right with God?

8. How do true worshipers worship the Father? (23)

“the true worshipers will worship the Father in _____ and _____.”

In order to worship God truly, we must be born of the Spirit.

9. When the woman realized who Jesus really was, what did she do? (28, 29)

10. What satisfied Jesus just like food? (34)

“My food is to _____ the _____ of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

11. Who did the Samaritans believe Jesus was? (42)

...we have heard for ourselves and know that this is indeed the _____, the _____ of the world.”

12. *Optional:* Memorize John 4:24, writing it on a small card. Have you memorized it? Please write it out from memory here.

How Faith Grows

Isn't it interesting to see how the woman of Samaria comes to know and believe more about Jesus the more He talks to her? See verse 9. She first recognizes Jesus as a Jew who had spoken to her kindly. See verse 11. Her respect rises, and she calls Him, “Sir.” See verse 19. Jesus knew so much about her, she now thinks He must be a prophet. See verse 29. She now believes Jesus must be the Christ, the promised Messiah.

The more we allow Jesus to talk to us through the Bible, the more our faith in Him will grow, too! “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

13. How does faith grow? (Romans 10:17)

“So then faith comes by _____, and _____ by the _____ of God”

What Is Living Water?

The woman of Samaria thought it would be a wonderful thing if she did not have to lower her skin bucket down into Jacob’s well. The water level was 90 feet below. But Jesus was not talking about physical water. Jesus was talking about the satisfaction He could give her to stop the continual thirst of her empty spirit for sinful pleasures. The living water He talks about is the gift of eternal life—His own life. The gushing spring is the overflowing joy and peace we can experience when we are filled with His Holy Spirit!

The woman wants the water, but first Jesus needs to prick her conscience. She must confess her sin and be willing to turn from it before she can receive living water from Jesus.

14. *Making It Personal:* What does your conscience tell you about your own sins—can you continue in them and still have hope of the living water?

What This Story Teaches About Working for God (Discussion)

- Every person needs to hear the gospel and believe in Christ for salvation. We should not treat anyone as an outcast or unacceptable. Jesus didn’t.
- The spiritual “fields” of the world are ripe and ready to be harvested. We need to look up and see how many people around us are hungry for the truth and ready to receive it.
- One person may sow (tell others about Jesus, give out literature, teach God’s Word). Another person may reap (actually introduce someone to Christ). We need to be willing to do either. Both the one who sows and the one who reaps can have joy.
- Doing God’s will and finishing our work each day brings a satisfaction even more than food can give.
- Though it is important to tell our friends about Jesus, we also need to present to them their need to know Him personally for themselves.