

## Sermon Outline

August 15, 2021

**Title:** The Samaritan Woman

**Text:** John 4:4-26

**Theme:** Jesus pursues us, meets our deepest need, and offers new life in His Spirit as a free gift regardless of our condition.

John 4:4-26

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.)

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.”

## **Outline of Teaching**

### I. Introduction

- A. We think this is a simple story we’re familiar with, but it’s actually a complex story about the love and grace of Jesus Christ.
- B. Few commentators agree on the main elements of the story.

### II. Geography and History

- A. Why the animosity between Jew and Samaritan?
- B. The geography of Samaria and Israel

### III. Jesus HAD to go through Samaria

- A. Samaria straddles Israel with Judah to the south and Galilee to the north
- B. But because Samaria and Judah were enemies, most Jews voided traveling through Samaria
- C. It was common to cross the Jordan River and go up the east bank.
- D. So why does it say Jesus HAD to go through Samaria.
- E. Keeping a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman
- F. It’s a 44 mile walk from Jerusalem to Sychar.
- G. Jesus stopped at the well, hot and thirsty, and sent the disciples into town

H. He was alone at the well as He was alone at night when He met with Nicodemus

#### IV. The Samaritan Woman

- A. We're never given her name
- B. Three strikes against her when it comes to the culture of the day
- C. She's a woman — In the culture of the day women were considered property and not equal in value and dignity as they are today
- D. She's a Samaritan — a pagan hated by faithful Jews
- E. She's a social outcast even in her own community — She comes to the well alone at the hottest time of the day contrary to social custom

#### V. What the Bible doesn't teach

- A. Many people hate the Bible and hate Christianity because they believe it teaches things it doesn't.
- B. Most people who think the Bible teaches things it doesn't haven't actually read it, or when they do they read it through a pre-existing lens and tend to find what they're looking for
- C. Many people believe the Bible teaches that men are of greater value than women — it's false
- D. The Bible does report what members of the culture believed and how they acted
- E. It also shows the negative results of sinful or wrong-headed cultural precepts
- F. The sin of Abraham led to polygamy and the Jews and Arabs are still paying the price today
- G. The main themes of the Bible include justice, equality, freedom, mercy, kindness, and love

#### VI. Jesus asks for a drink

7When 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.) 9The 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. All the woman knows about Jesus is that He's Jewish and that He knows she's a woman, a Samaritan, and she's on the outs with the rest of the village women
- B. She's surprised that Jesus, a Jew, would speak with her
- C. What does she believe Jesus' motive is in speaking with her
- D. She at first seems to mock Jesus for speaking with a Samaritan woman, then further speaks facetiously when He offers her living water

John 4:10-12

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?"

- E. Are you greater than our father Jacob?
- F. Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman are similar in that they both take spiritual metaphors and try to marginalize their meaning as ridiculous material advice
- G. They are being offered something beautiful, but they can only mock it, just like us
- H. The theme of John's gospel: Glory full of grace and truth

John 1:14, 16

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

- I. She continues to misunderstand. She sees it as a transaction, living water means not having to go back and forth to this well every day

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.”

15The 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.”

## VII. Her “confession”

- A. Jesus is pursuing her and He’s pursuing His plan for her
- B. Jesus defies her expectations, but meets her deepest need

16He 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.

18The 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.”

- C. Her words are true that she has no husband, but they are a subtle misdirection, she uses the omission to hide the underlying reality
- D. Jesus fills in the blanks she is too embarrassed and ashamed to admit - she’s been married 5 times and is now living with a man not her husband
- E. We’re not told why she’s had 5 husbands. Divorce? Death?
- F. But she’s living with a man now not her husband
- G. This may explain more her position as a shunned member of the community

## VIII. The Samaritan Woman’s Sin

- A. Jesus doesn’t make her confess her situation, He tells it to her
- B. This is actually a kind gesture by Jesus because otherwise she would bear the weight of her sin and believe she was disqualified for the living water He offers
- C. Satan tells us first, it’s a small sin that God won’t hold against you; then the second lie after we’ve committed the sin; God could never love you a sinner
- D. That’s why we love the darkness and hate the light so our sins are hidden
- E. We see Jesus’ kindness to her as well in that He does not condemn her for sin, in fact it’s never brought up again in the story

## IX. Worshipping the wrong things

- A. She's a sinful woman, just like you and me
- B. Rather than condemning her for sin, Jesus wants her to see her need, the unfulfilled thirst we don't even know we have
- C. This woman apparently thinks relationships, men, or sex will bring her fulfillment and meaning
- D. But her relationships have led to broken hearted loneliness
- E. Jesus shows her another way by showing her that she's made to drink deep satisfaction

## X. She changes the subject to geography — and worship

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."

- A. Where is the proper place to worship?
- B. Christ gives her relief, not by giving her the answer she hopes for but by changing the paradigm she lives under
- C. Geography doesn't matter, geography is vanishing as the issue of worship
- D. He tells her it's not about a place, it's about a person just as He told the Jews in John 2:18-22

18 The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

20 They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled

what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

## XI. Spirit and Truth

- A. It's not the mountain you worship on, it's the Spirit you worship in
- B. You'll worship not only in Spirit, but in truth
- C. Verse 22, He says Samaritans don't know the truth. But in John 8:19 He says the same of the Pharisees
- D. Truth is a moving target in today's culture.
- E. But Jesus says there is a constant standard of truth. He says, "the truth will set you free (John 8:32;) He calls on the Father to sanctify them by the truth (John 14:6)

## XII. The first I am

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."

- A. This is the first time Jesus uses the I am term. It's not with the disciples, or the religious authorities, or even other Jews, it's with a pagan woman
- B. He offers the living water right now. Not after she goes and cleans up her act, but now for the asking
- C. She and many others in the village respond
- D. Luke 5:31 - It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick

## XIII. Application

- A. Do you have a deficiency in your life you're trying to fill with something other than Christ's love
- B. We worship what we most value or fear; and we become what we worship
- C. Worshipping idols leads to broken hearts and empty lives
- D. Jeremiah 2:5 — 5 This is what the Lord says: "What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.
- E. Jesus is the well we all have to draw from

XIV. Communion

XV. Benediction

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[1] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.