

The Woman at the Well

Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, offering her living water and revealing that He is the Messiah.

John 4:1-42

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Samaritan woman, Disciples, Samaritans

THEMES: Living water, Worship in spirit and truth, Salvation for all, Jesus as Messiah

JESUS LEFT JUDEA and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

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

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.)

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.'

'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?'

Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 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.'

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.'

Jesus revealed that He knew about her past—she had had five husbands. The woman said, 'I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'

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

The woman left her water jar, went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?' Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony.

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