

Drinking the Water of Life

John 4.15-26

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, she had come for water. Jesus knew she had a deeper need: To receive eternal life through faith in Him! Sin was the problem she didn't want to face; Jesus was the remedy she didn't know she needed. He led her to the water of life!

- From the physical to the spiritual: Jesus changes the focus (15-18)

Helping others to face their deepest need

- Deflecting a distraction: True worship is from the heart (19-24)

It's all about faith, not formalities

- Receiving the water of life: "I who speak to you am He!" (25-26)

Whoever believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God (1 John 5.1)



1. In John 4.10, Jesus speaks of 'living water' to the Samaritan woman. This expression confused her; it could mean 'flowing water' like the source that supplied Jacob's well. So she asks Jesus if he is greater than Jacob, who dug the well that had supplied water for centuries! *Could Jesus dig a well like that?!* Then Jesus stunned her: His water isn't like normal water that after drinking, you get thirsty again. The water He gives "will become a well of water springing up to eternal life" (14)! Imagine you are the Samaritan woman (no cheating); how would you take Jesus' words? Would you be confused? Was she?
2. Verse 15 is a turning point in the conversation: The woman does not know what Jesus is offering, but *whatever it is*, she wants it! This is the way we should make unbelievers feel when we share the gospel with them! Stop and ask yourself: How can I make unbelievers *want to believe in Jesus for eternal life* when I share the gospel with them?
3. Jesus' supernaturally knows the details of the woman's disastrous personal life (16-18); in this way He exposes both her spiritual need, and forces the question of who He is (19). How does the knowledge of sin drive us to Christ (see Romans 3.19-26; John 16.7-11)?
4. The woman tells Jesus (19), "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet." While this is a step in the right direction, it is only that. Sometimes, unbelievers need time to grasp fully who Jesus is! For an excellent illustration of this, watch *The Most Reluctant Convert: The Untold Story of CS Lewis* (2021). (Do it with your small group!)
5. Why does the woman raise the different places of worship (20-21)? How does Jesus dissolve this thorny racial division in verses 22-24? Is there a lesson for us today, in our racially-charged climate? What does it mean to "worship [God] in spirit and in truth"?
6. The Samaritan woman thought Jesus was a prophet (19), but Jesus' authoritative words and knowledge suggest something much greater. What is her unspoken question in v25? What is Jesus' answer? Did she believe Him (29)? What did she receive? Review: What is it that gives us eternal life?