



Jesus and the Woman at the Well

Part 1

Story Elements

- **Text:** John 4:1-45
- **Setting:** circa AD 27 in Sychar, Samaria
- **Characters:** God, Jesus, a Samaritan woman, and the disciples
- **Plot:** A Pharisee named Nicodemus visits Jesus privately and is instructed on the Kingdom of God and the new birth.
- **Key word(s):** "_____ " – The story takes place at Jacob's well, where a woman has gone to draw water. Jesus capitalizes on the event to preach the gospel.
- **Climax:** *John 4:17-18* The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said

unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly? This verse is where Jesus reveals his divine power to the woman by revealing her private life of sin before he reveals that he is the Messiah.

Background

1. (vv 1-3) After Jesus' first journey to Jerusalem during his public ministry, he and his disciples went into the Judæan hill country to preach and baptize not far from where John the Baptist was ministering. But when Jesus' popularity eclipsed John's, it became necessary for the Savior to relocate his ministry focus to Galilee in order to avoid the growing animosity of the _____.
2. (vv 5-6) *En route* to Galilee, Jesus and his disciples passed through Samaria and stopped at a town called Sychar. Note some helpful historical facts:
 - (a) Samaria was the name the wicked King _____ gave to the capital city of the apostate northern kingdom of Israel. (1 Ki. 16:24)
 - (b) After Samaria fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The region was colonized by outsiders, and soon a half-breed race emerged called "Samaritans."
 - i. The Samaritans and the Jews became bitter enemies (Ez. 4:1-24; Ne. 4:1-6).
 - ii. The Samaritans rejected the Old Testament except the Pentateuch. They also rejected the temple in Jerusalem and established their own temple on _____.

NOTE→ The mutual hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans would continue to play a role in Jesus' ministry and preaching.

"Give me to drink"

3. (vv 5-9) When Jesus stopped at Jacob's Well (Gen. 33:19) for rest, he asked a woman there for a drink. Why do you think the woman was surprised that Jesus would ask her for a drink? _____

APPLICATION→ Notice how Jesus does not let her repulsing behavior discourage him from pursuing her with the Gospel. Matthew Henry notes: "He waives her objection of the feud between the Jews and Samaritans, and takes no notice of it. Some differences are best *healed* by being *slighted*, and by avoiding all occasions of *entering into dispute* about them. Christ will convert this woman, not by showing her that the Samaritan worship was *schismatical* (though really it was so), but by showing her her own ignorance and immoralities,

and her need of a Saviour.”¹

4. (v 10) Jesus responded to her by offering her a drink of “living water.” In the Old Testament, living water was a significant theme.
 - (a) The LORD rebuked the Jews for rejecting Him, the “_____ of living water.” (Jer. 2:13; 17:13)
 - (b) The prophets spoke of a time when living waters will bring healing and life to the land. (Ez. 47:8-9; Ze. 14:8)

APPLICATION➔ Living water is the life-giving, sin-cleansing, soul-changing power of the _____. The Holy Spirit is the agent of this power that proceeds from Jesus Christ.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

5. (vv 11-15) The woman, like Nicodemus before, did not understand that Jesus spoke of spiritual truths and not mere physical facts.
 - (a) She challenged Jesus on his claim to provide water that slaked thirst eternally. When Jesus continued to assert the superiority of his water, she eagerly asked for a drink, saying, *Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*
 - (b) Why do you think she wanted to avoid coming to the well? _____

“Go, call thy husband”

6. (vv 16-18) Jesus told the woman to fetch her _____. She responded, *I have no husband.*
 - (a) The Savior then displayed his divinity by revealing her dark secrets: *Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*
 - (b) (v 19) When confronted with her private sin by a stranger, the woman couldn't help but discern the work of God, She responded, *I perceive that thou art a _____.*

APPLICATION➔ A person cannot be saved without understanding their need of salvation, i.e., they must embrace the fact of their sin and understand their _____ before a holy God. The Savior's words to the woman at the well were not intended to shame her, but to open her eyes to the fact that she was a sinner in need of a Savior.

Answer Key: Key word(s): “water” • 1. Pharisees • 2. a) Omri; b) ii. Mt. Gerizim • 3. Because men did not speak to women in public, he was a Jewish man and she was a Samaritan woman • 4. a) fountain; ➔ Holy Spirit • 5. b) it was hard work • 6. husband; b) prophet; ➔ guilt

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1935.