

The Woman at the Well - Lesson One

Have you ever walked away from a conversation and thought, "I love that person!" or "What was that all about?" Have you ever had the feeling that there was an underlining message you were meant to receive? Conversations can be fun and lively, they can be thought provoking, and some can be life changing. This week we're going to study a woman whose entire life changed from just one conversation with Jesus Christ. That morning as she prepared to go about her daily routine, she never realized that GOD had planned an appointment to meet her and change her world forever!



The Pencil Sketch

Read John 4:1-30

Find a private spot to read John 4:1-30. Is there anything that strikes you about this historical scene? Write out anything you read that seems peculiar or different from this first encounter at the well.

1. If you could subtitle the verses of this chapter, what would be some of your titles?

verses 1-6	
verses 7-15	
verses 16-26	
verses 27-30	
verses 39-42	

A Thirsty Land

John 4:1-6

2. Why do you think Jesus intentionally took the road through Samaria to go to Galilee?
3. Does the fact that this woman's name is omitted make her less significant or important?
 - a. Does it make this account any less meaningful?
 - b. Have you ever felt "less than" in a church setting? If so, how did you deal with it?

4. Try to imagine you are this Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. You see a Jewish man by the well, and He begins to speak to you. What thoughts might go through your mind?
 - a. Why was this woman drawing her daily water alone and in the heat of the day?

5. How does Jesus open a dialogue with her?

6. What observations from this text reveal that Jesus did not treat women in the expected way of His culture?
 - a. In regard to issues of gender, race, religion, and social status, what does this encounter reveal about Jesus' attitude toward people in general?

 - b. In what ways can clinging to cultural or religious traditions hinder us in sharing the gospel?

7. Look up the following passages and record what each has to say about our attitude in regard to sharing the gospel.

Matthew 28:19-20	
Acts 10:28, 34-35	
Galatians 3:28	
James 2:1-9	



Personally Tailored

Consider your own heart for a moment: do you see any evidence of this in your own personal life? As you contemplate the compassion of Christ, pray for courage and boldness to step out this week and share His love with others.



Shades of Character

A Thirsty Soul

Read John 4:7-26

8. Do you see evidence of a special pain or need in this woman's life that might cause Jesus to seek her out?
- a. This woman was thirstier than she imagined. How was her real thirst made manifest?

9. In as simple terms as possible, try to explain the meaning of living water from this text.
- a. How does the woman's reply in verse 15 show that she did not completely understand what Jesus meant?
 - b. Are there people today who don't comprehend the free gift of "living water?"
10. When the woman failed to understand the nature of the living water Jesus offered, He changed the subject. Why did He do this?

Circle the correct answer below

To focus on her real need for salvation

To show His intimate knowledge of her moral character

To indicate His Divine nature

To reveal her spiritual ignorance

All the above

- a. Is there any hint here of condemnation?
- b. What is missing in His conversation with her?



Personally Tailored

The woman brought her empty jar to the well to be filled that day, but she also brought her empty self. What are you thirsty for today? Have you been searching for something other than the living water? Has it quenched your thirst?

- b. Is worship solely an attitude or can it be expressed in actions? Is there a passage that supports your answer?

- c. How does a person become a true worshipper of God?

*"Worship rises or falls
with our concept of God..."*

A. W. Tozer



Personally Tailored

Scripture is replete with examples of the attributes of God, His sovereignty, His love, mercy, wisdom, power, etc. Choose ONE of His attributes and spend time praising Him for the wonderful facet of His character and the way it effects you as His child.

14. How would you describe the progression of the woman's faith in the following verses?

Verse 9	
Verse 15	
Verse 19	
Verse 25	
Verse 29	

"I knew then that "w-a-t-e-r" meant
the wonderful cool something that
was flowing over my hand.
That living word awakened my soul,
gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!"

Helen Keller

A Thirsty Soul

Read John 4:27-30

Can you sense the mounting excitement of this woman as she continued to speak with Jesus? Her heart, spirit, and mind are ignited as she begins to realize **who** **this is** and the hope He is extending to her. It's wonderful to see how one visit with a hurting woman changed the lives of so many in her town.

15. In verse 28, John tells us that she "left her water pot" and went into the city. Can you think of an example in your own life that reminds you of this incident?

16. Do you ever go out of your way, as our Lord did, to reach someone with the gospel? Why or why not?
 - a. According to Acts 1:8, who enables us to witness for Christ?

 - b. How does this verse reveal the far-reaching capability of His power through a willing vessel?

- c. Is there someone you know that needs to hear the Gospel today? Someone coming to a worldly well but never satisfied? What practical ways can you begin to share with this thirsty soul this week?

Thirst Again. An extremely profound statement: "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again." This statement should be written over every ambition you have. What is it that you are hoping to attain in life? What is it that you think will bring you satisfaction and fulfillment? What goals are you pressing toward? What possessions are you striving to acquire? Whatever it is, write over the top of it, "Drink of this water, but you will thirst again." There is nothing in the material realm that will satisfy our spiritual thirst. Chuck Smith

17. After studying this wonderful woman, what lasting impression did she leave with you?

- a. How might her life impact women today in the 21st century?

18. Let's close this study with a time of prayer...

Lord, how often I get caught up in the temporary and insignificant things of the world. I become stirred over things that won't matter in eternity. I waste time, energy and money on things that don't satisfy. Give me sight to see and ears to hear what is eternal. I pray for wisdom as I read and study your Word. May I learn to worship YOU and only You! Teach me to number my days, to trust Your work in my life, and to surrender my desires to You.

*"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
John 7:37-38*

