

# 1 Youth Ministry Grades 7-12

# March 29, 2025 Jesus and the woman at the well

# Contact Us

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#### Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

We are always collecting **"Personal Care Items"** for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens See the sidebar for our new **TEXT Prayer Request Line!** Simply <u>text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553</u> anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

> <u>Coming May 16th!</u> Spring Fling Youth Event Food, Fun, and Friends 6pm to 10pm

## Sunday



### Jesus and the Woman at the Well

Last Sunday, we looked deeper into the story of "<u>The</u> <u>Woman at the Well</u>", found in John 4:1-42. Rather than read through all 42 verses, we decided to watch the story as told in a video clip from <u>Season 1 Episode 8 of</u> <u>The Chosen series</u> and then dig deeper afterwards.

We found that there is a lot more to get out of this story than first appears by just reading (or hearing) it. The first thing we mentioned was like many of the other stories we look at, we don't know the woman's name. We said she could really be anyone of us plus her name is not really important, the story is.

We talked about the culture and society at the time. Jews and Samaritans absolutely hated each other for generations. Jews would literally go way out of their are being collected in the bin located on tables in the hall. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

#### This Week's Bible Verses

#### John 4:39-42

<sup>39</sup> Many of the
Samaritans from that
town believed in him
because of the
woman's testimony,
"He told me everything
l ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when
the Samaritans came
to him, they urged him
to stay with them, and
he stayed two days.
<sup>41</sup> And because of his
words many more
became believers.

### John 3:36

<sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

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way to avoid even going through Samaria let alone stopping to speak to a Samaritan.

Plus, the Samaritan Jesus was speaking to was a woman. While not specifically a law, Jewish culture forbid men from speaking with unrelated women in public.

This particular woman was not only a Samaritan, she was divorced 5 times and was currently living with a man she was not married to. Not even another Samaritan woman would be seen talking with this woman, which helps explain why she was alone.

This shows us how Jesus goes out of His way and comes to us to meet us wherever we are and whoever we are regardless of what we may have done.

So, Jesus starts off this encounter already breaking down societal barriers to speak to this particular woman. We also noticed that the conversation was different than what we are normally used to seeing in interactions with Jesus in the Gospel.

Of course, Jesus did not come to condemn this woman but there was also no "your sins are forgiven" or "go and sin no more" like we are used to seeing in other peoples' encounters with Jesus.

Jesus speaks to her as a person who has genuine spiritual hunger and a true love for God. But, due to some bad choices and circumstances beyond her control she has been blocked from the spirituality she desires. Like many of us, this woman has experienced a lifetime of disappointment, sadness, and suffering.

Jesus came to this woman to remove those barriers to her faith and offer her a true relationship with God. Jesus came to give her (and us) life.

We also looked at the length Jesus went through to meet with this forgotten and rejected woman. She purposefully went to the well at this time (hottest part of the day) everyday to avoid being condemned by others so Jesus met her wherever she was.

We also discussed the importance of the well as it was just no ordinary well. This well was dug 1500 years earlier by Jacob who was the grandson of Abraham. Jacob's Well represents a deep connection between the Samaritans and the chosen Jewish people even though the people themselves did not appear to be connected at all. We talked about the woman's responses to Jesus offering her "living water" and said that we often respond the same way. Jesus offers us forgiveness and salvation and we respond with "I'm not worthy" or "How can you forgive me after what I've done?".

We said that this story shows that not matter who we are or what we have done, Jesus invites us, to believe in Him and receive eternal life with "living water".

We talked about what "eternal life" means. In the Bible, eternal life is a gift from God that can only be received through faith in Jesus Christ. We also said that it's really not just about extending our lifespan for forever. It's more about receiving a "<u>New Quality of Life</u>" in a close personal relationship with God that begins right now, today, and continues for all eternity.

We looked in John 3:36 where it says, "Whoever believes in the Son HAS eternal life..." It doesn't say will have in the future or after we die, it says HAS as in at the very moment that you believe.

We can see the change of heart immediately in the woman at the very moment she believed who Jesus was. She dropped her water jars symbolizing leaving all her worries, hopelessness, sadness, and pain, etc. with Jesus and then ran off to tell everyone about what Jesus had done. Being divorced 5 times, betrayed, and rejected, no longer mattered.

We said that the "Living Water" that Jesus gave her not only flowed through her to give her "eternal life" it provided her with the energy and desire to share her amazing experience with everyone she knew.

We compared it to the story from a few weeks ago of the demon possessed men in the graveyard. Just like in that story, Jesus' purpose for meeting with this particular woman was to not only save her and give her eternal Life, but also for her to help Him spread His message of salvation with "<u>everyone she knew</u>".

We are all called to do the same, leading others to Jesus. To share our amazing experience of receiving Jesus and telling everyone in our own "<u>sphere of</u> <u>influence</u>" what Jesus has done for us and what He can do for them as well.

It even tells us near the end of the story, in **John 4:39-41** that "Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony." They all came to see Him for themselves and "because of His words, many more became believers". This story tells us that in God's eyes, nobody is ever too far gone. It tells us that God has a purpose for each of us. It tells us that He is always with us. The only question is, "will you believe and accept Him into your heart?"

We mentioned that, under the circumstances, it would have been very easy for the woman to just turn right around and leave. It would have been very easy for her to have been so overwhelmed by her problems that she didn't even try to understand what Jesus was telling her. But, **she didn't run away**.

She not only stayed but she also listened to what Jesus was telling her. <u>She not only listened</u>, but she believed and Jesus brought immediate peace to her crazy life.

The story of The Woman at the Well is a story of Love, Truth, Acceptance, and Redemption. Like many other stories that we look at, we can imagine ourselves in the same place as the characters that we read about.

We asked, "what do you think would happen if you sat with Jesus for a moment and just had a conversation with Him like the Samaritan Woman did?"

# What would happen if you invited a friend to hear about Him?



## Pre-Service Coffee Q&A Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.

1. Albert Martin

#### Living Word Ahwatukee

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