

# The Samaritan Woman 2-11-B

Jesus had been speaking to large crowds in the region of Judea and the success in ministry led to more conflict with religious leaders, so Jesus decided to return to the region of Galilee. It was customary for Jews to cross the Jordan River to travel north to Galilee so they could avoid Samaria. But on this journey Jesus went right through Samaria.

About noon that day Jesus stopped beside a well outside a town called Sychar to rest. The disciples went into the town to get food. This was the place where generations before Jacob had given land to his son Joseph. Most people drew water from Jacob's well at the end of the day to avoid the heat of the midday sun. But some women would get water at noon to avoid the crowds later. That day, a Samaritan woman found Jesus waiting by the well. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. This was surprising because the Jews hated the Samaritans, and to touch a cup handled by an unclean Samaritan would have made a Jew unclean.

Jesus began a conversation with the Samaritan woman even though customarily rabbis did not speak to women. Jesus told her she was not aware of who He really was, or she would have asked Him for living water. Jesus explained that everyone who drank from the well's water would get thirsty again, but those who received His water would never thirst but have eternal life inside of them. This intrigued the woman and she asked for the water so she wouldn't be thirsty again.

Jesus then asked the Samaritan woman to call her husband. The woman said she did not have a husband. Jesus told her that she had been married five times and was now living with a man she had never married. Not only was she amazed that her sinful life was known by this stranger, but she realized that He must be a prophet. The woman challenged Jesus on the old argument between Jews and Samaritans about where people should worship God. Jesus explained that the place was not as important as worshipping God in spirit and truth. He told her that salvation would come from the Jews, for Jesus was a Jew, but she did not understand. Jesus told her that He was the Messiah, called Christ.

The disciples returned from the town surprised to see Jesus talking to a woman. They watched as she left her water jar behind and hurried back to town. They got the food ready and asked Jesus to join them. He surprised them again. Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." When the disciples wondered who had already given Jesus food, He explained it was not physical food, but He was nourished by doing the will of the Father. The trip to Samaria was not by chance and His conversation with the Samaritan woman was not an accident. Every step of His day was part of God's perfect plan. Just as a farmer sows seeds and then reaps a harvest when it is ripe, so Jesus wanted them to see the lost of every culture as a ripe harvest waiting to hear the good news of salvation.

The Samaritan woman quickly spread the news throughout the town. She told the people how Jesus knew everything about her and invited them to come and see Him, wondering if He could be the Christ. Many people listened to the woman's testimony and believed. They came and asked Jesus to stay a few days to teach them. Jesus stayed two more days and taught the people of Sychar. Many more became believers.

## Teacher's Notes

- I. **On His way home.**
  - A. Popularity breeds conflict.
  - B. A path set by God.
- II. **At Jacob's well.**
  - A. A noon stop.
  - B. A Samaritan woman.
- III. **A refreshing conversation.**
  - A. Her life revealed.
  - B. The living water.
- IV. **Many believed.**
  - A. She spread the news.
  - B. They came to hear.

## Activity

Direct a class discussion on the types of people that may be "Samaritans" to your students. For some, it may be those of another skin color, another religion, or another country. For others it may be the opposite gender or those who are younger or older. Sometimes living in a different neighborhood or attending a different school can be enough to cause prejudice. Discuss how we can reach these as Jesus did.

## Teacher Growth

Forming strong opinions against other people is not just an issue you need to help your students with. Sometimes it is hard to admit that we form prejudices against some students. We may decide in advance, because of their background or other features, that they will not learn much or will probably reject our lessons. Ask the Lord to let you see your students as He sees them and then guard your heart against prejudice.

## Scripture Passages:

John 4:1-42

## Memory Verse:

John 4:14 – *"But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*





