

Face to Face

with

The Samaritan Woman

First Day

Her Story

“But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transformed in ever-increasing splendor into His own image, and this is the work of the Lord who is the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 3:18 PHILLIPS)

This week we will be looking at the woman Jesus met at the well. A careful look at this story reveals that Jesus went out of His way to be at this well. Although He took the shorter route from Judea to Galilee through Samaria, because of the Jew’s hatred of the Samaritans, the more common route would have been the longer one through Perea, east of the Jordan River. Scripture tells us that *He had to pass through Samaria*. Could it be that He had a divine appointment with this particular woman on this particular day? And then we see this woman, walking to the well in the heat of the day. Could it be that she had to go there at that time of day, instead of the more usual morning or evening hours, so as to miss coming into contact with those who scorn her lifestyle? Little did she know as she made her way to the well on this chosen day, that her life would be changed forever by the One who would offer her *Himself*.

We will begin by looking at what Scripture tells us about the Samaritan Woman. *This is her story.*

Open your Bibles to **John 4**. Read the verses listed below and summarize the events described there:

verses 1-6 _____

verses 7-15 _____

verses 16-26 _____

verses 27-30 _____

verses 39-42 _____

What was the Samaritan Woman's *shame*? _____

Do you realize that Jesus knows exactly who you are? He knows everything you've ever done and He loves you. In the book, *Intimacy with God*, J. I. Packer is quoted as saying this: "*What matters supremely...is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it, the fact that He knows me.*"

What was her *blessing*? _____

Do you realize that Jesus loves you *just as you are*? Again from J. I. Packer, "*There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery can now disillusion Him about me.*"

What did she *learn*? _____

In the Samaritan Woman's story we recognize that Jesus is a seeker. Listen to what Scripture teaches us about this fact:

- "*We love Him because **He first loved us***" (I John 4:19).
- "*In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins***" (I John 4:10).
- "***But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us***" (Romans 5:8).

Second Day

Her Manner

Who is She?

“...Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” (II Peter 1:5-7)

We are not told the Samaritan woman's name.

Today we will be looking at the *character* of the Samaritan Woman. Reread the **John 4** account of her story and use the following words to describe her:

- *Her strength*

- *Her weakness*

- *Her heart*

- *Her influence*

Is there anything about the Samaritan Woman that you can relate to? _____

Why do you think Jesus asked her to *go and get her husband*? _____

Are there any lessons you learn from the Samaritan Woman? _____

Through your study of the Samaritan Woman's character, what new things have you learned about our Lord's character? _____

Third Day

Her Hope

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 NAS)

From what you have studied about the Samaritan Woman this week:

What was her *need*? _____

What was her *hope*? _____

What was God’s *promise*? _____

The story we have studied this week gives us the most beautiful picture of our loving Savior. He is no respecter of persons, and His concern for each individual is ever the same – it is for their soul. Listen to the beautiful words of Clarence E. Macartney on Jesus’ request of the woman for water: *“There was perhaps more in that request of Christ’s than the woman understood. In his agony on the cross Christ cried, ‘I thirst!’ And it was more than a thirst for water. It was a thirst for souls. So when he asked this woman for a drink, it was a drink divine, too, that he wanted. He was athirst for a soul.”*

Jesus was athirst for a soul! That is why Scripture says *He had to pass through Samaria*. He knew there was one waiting for Him there! The Samaritan woman was thirsty too. Think of some words that might describe the thirst of her heart that day, as she walked to the well to draw water alone. _____

Memory Verse:

Jesus’ words to the Samaritan Woman were, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* And then, ***“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst”*** (John 4:13-14). This is our memory verse this week – begin memorizing it today!

The Samaritan woman immediately wanted this water Jesus was offering. But she was thinking in practical terms and of temporal things. Jesus was speaking of eternity! Share from the best of your understanding what the *living water* is. _____

- How did her encounter with Jesus quench her thirst that day?

- Are you thirsty for something today? Is there anything you could need that could not be found in Christ? Share your thoughts on this.

Fourth Day

Her Gifts

Isn't it interesting that when Jesus took the time to visit with one sinful woman, many lives were changed as a result? Our Lord was never in a hurry and He was not persuaded or influenced by prejudices or pre-conceived notions people believed about each another. He was no respecter of persons when it came to the deep need in people and in doing His Father's will.

This Samaritan Woman became the first to receive the acknowledgement from Jesus about who He was, and then she became the first messenger to carry that news to her own townspeople. Although she was used to drawing water from the well in the middle of the day in order to avoid people, her new faith allowed her to triumph over her feelings of shame and inadequacy, and enabled her to freely share her excitement at having found the Messiah!

Why do you think Jesus chose to share the news of who He was with this particular woman first? _____

We can almost sense the excitement this woman must have felt as Jesus took her downcast, hopeless perspective and turned it into an eternal perspective of living hope. She, in turn, demonstrated an immediate response of allowing that "living water" of the Spirit to well up in her and flow out onto the lives of others.

Having received the revelation of who Jesus Christ is should give us the desire to share that news with others. The appropriate response at having received the gift of eternal life should be the desire to share that gift with those who still need it.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your "ready response" to share the Good News; with 10 being anytime, anyplace, and 1 being never, unless someone corners you?

Using the same scale, how enthusiastic are you in your sharing? _____

Will you go out of your way as Jesus did to reach someone with the Gospel? Why or why not? _____

Have you been able to overcome your own feelings of inadequacy in order to witness?

What else have you overcome to be able to share the Good News? _____

According to Acts 1:8, who is it that enables you to witness for Christ? _____

What does this verse tell you about the far-reaching extent of His power? _____

The Samaritan Woman was the first “evangelist” of her kind mentioned in Scripture. She did what she could in that she shared what she knew with those in close proximity to her. You may not consider yourself an “evangelist” as such, but you are called to testify to your faith whenever and wherever the Lord sends you. Drawing from the *well of living water* Jesus Christ offers means partaking of the same Holy Spirit to receive eternal life, to worship God, and to witness on Christ’s behalf in your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, your surrounding community and beyond if called to do so. You have no idea the number of lives God wants to touch through your obedience!

Optional: As you have time this week, look up the following passages that deal with spiritual gifts: I Corinthians 12:1-11; Roman 12:1-8; and Ephesians 4:7-16. As you read through these lists, note the diversity of the gifts, how they are designated and the purpose for them. You will see different ones displayed in the women you study this year as well as in your own life.

“...Earnestly desire the best gifts.”

I Corinthians 12:31a

Fifth Day

Her Legacy

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

How will you be remembered? How would you like to be remembered? What will you leave behind of benefit for others? What you do and say today will leave imprints for others to view tomorrow.

Taking a closer look...

- What impression did the Samaritan Woman leave with you this week?

- How might her life impact Women in today’s world?

The conversion of this Samaritan Woman has universal meaning. She is the prototype of women everywhere who live for the pleasures of this world, and for whom there is an eternal fountain of refreshment.

Taking a personal look...

- From what “worldly wells” have you tried to find fulfillment? (People, career, material pursuits, etc.) What was the result?

- In a few sentences state how you came to partake of the water of everlasting life.

Passing it on...

- In a moment, to this woman on that spot, the Lord spoke words from the well of truth that would reverberate through the centuries, addressing all who would seek the true meaning and fulfillment of life. To whom would you like to pass on these same words in the coming week? (Keep this a matter of prayer and watch what the Lord does.)

Sixth Day

Your Prayer

Each day this week you have examined up close – face to face – a woman of the Bible: her *story and manner*; her *promise and hope*; her *gifts and legacy*. Throughout the process, as you learned about her, you also learned about yourself.

Now the focus shifts to *Your Prayer*. Each week during your group time you will have the opportunity to pray in agreement with the other ladies for the things you write down on this personalized page. Keep an updated account in the *Praise* list each week as God answers your petitions. Let's begin this year by coming boldly to His throne and learning to pray the **BIG PRAYER** with expectancy! The only prerequisite for such boldness is being *humble* and *real* in His presence.

Prayer: Write out your prayer for each of the following...

I praise God for (an aspect of His marvelous character) _____

I confess to God _____

I thank God for _____

I ask God for _____

Promise: Write out this week's *promise* in the space provided...and learn this year to pray these promises from Scripture.

Praise: If God has answered a prayer request for you this week or fulfilled a desire of your heart, please write it out and date it as a stone of remembrance.
