

WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-42

By Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer jerry@schmoyer.net

<http://www.mainstreetbaptist.org/> - <http://india.mainstreetbaptist.org/>

MAIN IDEA: Jesus seeks, forgives, honors those let Him
(tell in story form so more interested)

MAGIC: shame to honor magic trick

INTRODUCTION

For a long time I didn't think I worth anything to God

I wasn't worth His love, time, interest

I was too unimportant and insignificant

He has been showing me that we all important to Him

GIDEON – least in family, least tribe, unworthy

TRANSITION Story in John shows how significant we are

I. JESUS TALKS TO THE WOMAN

John 4:1 Now he had to go through Samaria.

NOT to get to destination

-out of His way

-unclean land, no one ever went that way

BUT to help a woman who didn't even know Him

Jesus is initiating to meet her need

Goes out of His way to find, meet us

5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Samaritans rejected more than Gentiles – know about God

Muslims harder on those who know, reject than others

Unclean to Jews

Even dust of their roads unclean, pollutes

Dishonored people, worse than animals (ignorant)

6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

Hottest time of the day, everyone inside

Jesus very tired and hungry – **JESUS IS HUMAN**

Knows what we go through

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water,

Woman rejected, not look at man, talk to man, eyes down

Why come in hottest time of day?

Avoid other women – **shameful & guilty**

Had 5 husbands, now living with man

Lonely, looking for something, not find it in man

Only Jesus can meet our inner needs, no one else

Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

Jew never talk to Samaritan

Man never talked to or looked at woman in public

Rabbi especially never did so

ASKS FOR A DRINK

Jew, man, rabbi never ask Sam woman for a favor

Never touch what Samaritan touched

Never ever drink from same vessel she used!

Shame – worse than unclean!

8-9 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Woman very surprised, startled, suspicious

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

If knew who He was would understand

-ask HIM for salvation!

JESUS IS GOD

HONOR ASCRIBED

Angels to Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Magi

God at baptism – "beloved son"

Death events: earthquake, tombs, veil

HONOR ACHIEVED

Miracles, healing, feeding

Deliverance, demons gone

Nature – sea calmed

Death, Nain, Jairus

Living water: He would meet need in her heart

Thirst for sp truth greater than phy water

That's why He went out of way to meet her

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

Only thinking of water to drink

Unbeliever – no spiritual perspective

12-14 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 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."

Jesus meets all our needs

No others Hindu idols, Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius

II. THE WOMAN BELIEVES

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Only thinking of physical water

Doesn't want to come to well in heat of day, face rejection

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

She must recognize her *shame and guilt before GOD*

Before men: birth, woman, immoral

ME: not popular, rich, large church

YOU may feel shame before others

**BEFORE GOD: actions, thoughts, etc*

ME: sin nature, acts of sin

YOU same, sin before God matters!

So see her real need, come to Him for forgiveness, honor

17-18 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

Shows He is God, knows everything/everyone

19-20 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

CHANGES SUBJECT so not talk about her sin, shame

CURIOUS ABOUT THIS MAN so asks theological question

Wondering about salvation – which way right?

Jesus: "I am way, truth, life, no one to father but by

21-24 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Real worship from heart, not actions, ritual, chants, etc.

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Heard of Messiah even if not a Jew - **HUMAN & GOD**

So could take our place, REDEEM us

26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

NOT reveal self to educated Jewish rel rulers

BUT reveal self to rejected Gentile woman with 5 husb

-loved her, wanted to help her

-she open, seeking truth – ARE YOU?

PLAN OF SALVATION

He took our shame on the cross

– gives us His honor!!!

CHANGE: SHAME TO GUILT SHOWN BY:

From dying to being raised

From far from God to indwelt by His Spirit

From imprisoned in the flesh to gifted in the Spirit

From spiritually poor to having riches in God

From failure & failing short to complete in Christ

From illegitimate children to child of God

From ignorant to being taught of God

From blind to seeing

From darkness to enlightened by God

From stumbling to being strengthened and encouraged

From accursed to being exonerated/represented

From cursed to blessed

From tiredness to renewed

From guilty to redeemed

SHAME TO HONOR for this woman

Before men and before God

-talked to by Jewish rel ruler, God Himself!

-sins covered, removed by Him

-accepts, loves her as she is

-gives her privilege of announcing Himself to others

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

VERY unusual, but no one questioned Him
BROKE rules of society, **clean and unclean**
Not go by man's prejudices – **all equal to Him**

III. THE WOMAN TELLS OTHERS

28-29 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

She knows who He is or wouldn't have said this
Wants them to check Him out, decide for selves
YOU: challenge others to come check out who Jesus is

30-32 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Forgot thirsty, hungry
Very happy woman has eternal life, living water
Glad to see others coming to Jesus

33-34 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" 34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Jesus' purpose – show us God
TRANSLATOR purpose is to communicate my words
Gestures, truth, etc, accurately
Jesus translates God to us!
Reaches out in love
Removes sin, guilt & shame

35-38 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Example of living water in her welling up to others v. 14

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

Didn't know much, but tell what Jesus did for her
=witness!
US tell what Jesus did for us
Challenge them to check Him out for self

40-42 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

When people learn about Jesus He reveals Himself to them

Great groundwork set for future revival

ACTS – Philip there many believe

Peter & John come to help teach

CONCLUSION

For a long time I didn't think I worth anything to God

I wasn't worth His love, time, interest

I was too unimportant and insignificant

He has been showing me that we all important to Him

GIDEON – least in family, least tribe, unworthy

Lifted up by Jesus

Used to bring great deliverance

Great honor and recognition given him

YOU – feel unworthy, shame, guilt

-before God: removes sin, shame

Gives freedom, honor

Accept free gift of salvation

-from others: equal, accepted, used by Jesus

(review **PLAN OF SALVATION**

He took our shame on the cross

– gives us His honor!!!