

Stage III. The Early Judean Ministry

E. Jesus Makes Disciples in Samaria

3. The Woman Asks Jesus for “Living Water”

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #045

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15 The woman said to him, "Master, give me this water so that I can stop being thirsty, and no longer have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He commanded her, *"I command you to go then, call your husband and come back here."*

17 "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."*

19 "Master," the woman said, "I am perceiving that you are a prophet."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Sychar in Samaria
Timeline	August 30 AD (Month seven)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage III: The Early Judean Ministry
	E. Jesus Makes Disciples in Samaria
Title	3. The Woman Asks Jesus For Living Water

COMMENT:

In today's reading the relationship between Jesus and the Samaritan woman reached the critical turning point. She took Jesus up on his offer to give her "living water"-- if she would only ask -- even though her understanding of "living water" was still inadequate. Jesus received her fledgling faith and increased it by continuing to reveal himself to her.

As soon as the woman reached out with her faith, Jesus took the initiative to deal with her sin. He revealed his omniscience to her by showing her that he knew all about her five failed marriages, and her current relationship of living with a man who was not her husband. This is what convinced her that he was "a prophet."

Sin is our enemy. It destroys us forever if left in place--the spiritual equivalent of malignant cancer. Jesus did not reveal her sin to condemn her, as the townspeople did. He led her to acknowledge it so that he could forgive her and set her free. Forgiveness of sin is a glorious part of the "living water" he had promised her. She would leave this conversation with her heart set free from the massive burden of guilt she had carried for many years.

Stage III. The Early Judean Ministry

In these brief verses the Samaritan woman makes huge strides in her knowledge of Jesus. She began the conversation addressing him as "you Jew" (4.9). She then begins to call him "Sir," or "Master," (4.11, 15). This was a term of respect. She ends our reading for today confessing her faith in him as "a prophet" (4.19). Next she will refer to him as "Messiah," which Jesus affirms (4.25-26). By the end of the day she believes in him as "the Savior of the world" (4.42).

These five incremental steps of increasing recognition of Jesus comprise the quickest and most profound response to Jesus in the entire gospel of John. He carefully selected this woman, and this encounter with Jesus because it is such an important example for us all. (I have provided [supplemental notes on this reading](#), and this entire Chapter of John because of its importance. Please continue to access them for further study.)

How was this woman able to grow so quickly in her faith and knowledge of Jesus? This is the key point of her example.

This woman simply responded to the words of Jesus in child-like faith. She was sinful and needy. But she was unusually perceptive, and open to the truth as Jesus spoke it to her. She took in everything Jesus told her, and though she did not understand it fully, she responded to each word in obedient faith. With every step of new faith, Jesus revealed progressively more of himself, and drew her along into the full knowledge of him. Faith expressed in obedience is the key.

APPLICATION:

This woman started out her day with no understanding of who Jesus really was, and what he came to this world to do for her. She had no qualifications to receive anything from him, and there were actually many things about her that should have disqualified her from coming to know Jesus as her own Savior, as well as the Savior of the world. However, Jesus' grace and love rendered the issues of qualification and disqualification utterly moot.

She was qualified to receive everything Jesus had to offer her because he made it available as a free gift of grace, that only required faith. She simply took Jesus at his word, one new saying from him at a time.

Unlike this woman, who started with zero knowledge about Jesus, one of our problems is that we have too much information. Actually, there is no such thing as too much knowledge of him, but we have too little response to the information we DO have. This woman took every new word from Jesus to heart, and acted on it, one by one. We, on the other hand, are too likely to have not acted in response to many pieces of information that we already "know." ***We have heard it all for so long that we mistake familiarity with obedient faith. That is a tragic mistake.***

We need to take each word from Jesus, and about him in the gospels very seriously, and seek with all of our hearts, minds, souls, and strength to actually DO what Jesus has said; to act on it. Responding in obedient faith is the pathway to further revelation from him. As surely as Jesus revealed himself with amazing, powerful grace to the Samaritan woman, he will do the same in us if we will simply trust him in child-like, obedient faith like she did.

What do you need to "call and bring to Jesus" in confession today? What word in this text can you put into immediate application with your obedience today?