

"The Woman at the Well"

John 4

Introduction: Happy Mother's Day to all the mommas that are here today. As I thought and prayed about what to speak on today, I was led NOT to stand here and lecture you moms about the mistakes that you have made or somehow make you feel guilty because your family is not perfect, or that you are not perfect. A couple of weeks ago I rode with my daughter between soccer games and we entered into a discussion about personal time with the Lord and how it can be so hard on some days to find that quality time when you are raising 4 children, homeschooling, washing clothes, making meals, and whatever else ends up on the schedule for the day. In that conversation she said something to me that God used to bring about this message. She told me that there were nights when she would go to bed and struggle with what she called "MOM GUILT" which was feeling like there were things she could have done better through the day. It may have been to manage time better, to deal with a disobedient child in a better way, to react to an unexpected problem in a better way so as to be a better example to the children, and the list goes on. I began to think upon this, and I came to realize that Satan can take these thoughts and make you feel as though you are a major failure.

All of this brought me to the woman at the well because this is what we are studying on Wednesday evenings and as we have just started into this study of John 4, I realized this is what God wanted me to preach on Mother's Day. This may seem like a strange passage for this day, but I trust that God will help you to see the encouragement which He has for you in the events of this chapter.

➤ **The Appointment**

Notice John 4:1-4

The Pharisees were looking to confront Jesus, but He avoided the confrontation. The time was not right. This confrontation would come at a later time but at this time there were other issues at hand. Jesus was leaving Judea and He was going to Galilee, and we are told that He **MUST** needs go through Samaria. This was not the path which the Jews would take to get from Judea to Galilee. The Jews wanted nothing to do with the Samaritans.

✓ **History of the Samaritans**

2 Kings 17:22-24

²² For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

²³ Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

²⁴ And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

When the northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians, the king of Assyria carried away many of the people of Israel and he left some in their land. He then imported from Babylon certain prominent people to occupy the land and with that the city of Samaria which was the capital of the northern kingdom. These people then began to intermarry with the people of Israel that were left in the land, and their offspring became known as the Samaritans. The people of Judah viewed them as half breeds but there was more.

These Samaritans began to mix the worship of Jehovah with the gods of the foreign lands. So, now they are seen as half breeds who had a false worship system. They show up in Nehemiah's day wanting to help build the walls around Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:1-3

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

² Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

³ But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

When they were rejected, they went to Mount Gerizim and built their own temple there.

Notice John 4:20

In the eyes of the Jews they were half breeds, they had a false religion, and they worshipped in the wrong place. The Samaritans were greatly despised by the Jews.

John 8:48

⁴⁸ Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

In John 4 Jesus is going to go right through Samaria. He shows us that the Gospel knows no racial barriers. **In the previous chapter Jesus evangelized a highly respected moral man by the name of Nicodemus. In chapter 4 Jesus will evangelize a no named woman who is living in deep immorality. In both of these meetings we learn that the Gospel is for every single person. It is for the most respected people that we encounter, and it is for the most rejected people that we encounter.**

➤ The Aggressiveness of the Savior

Notice John 4:5-6

Here in verse 6, we see the humanity of our Lord. He had probably been walking 6 hours. It was the heat of the day. When He came to the well, he just sat down for He was wearied from the journey. He cared about people and so He was weary from ministry. He is dusty and sweaty from walking. He does not look like the pictures that we see. John's mission is to show us that Jesus is the Son of God. But here John shows us His humanity. Why do I need to see this?

Hebrews 4:13-16

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Application:

As a mom you find yourself exhausted and weary. Know that Jesus Christ knows how you feel and He will provide what you need.

Notice John 4:7

The woman was not there when Jesus arrived, so He sat and waited. When she showed up, He asked her for a drink. He never used His power to satisfy His needs. Jesus initiated the conversation and by doing so He again broke tradition. Jewish men would never speak to a woman in the public and especially a woman such as this woman. Not only was she a Samaritan but she was also immoral.

The time is midday which was not the time women came to the well. The well was a popular meeting place, and the women would come early in the cool of the morning. It would be a place to socialize. Isaac, Jacob, and Moses all met their wives at a well. So, why does she come at midday? Because she is despised and rejected. She is an outcast of the outcasts. This is who the Gospel is for.

Notice John 4:16-18

She had given her body to anyone who would give her a place to live. She has been through 5 husbands and is now living with a man who she is not married to.

This is the woman that Jesus was waiting for. Consider Who was waiting on her. He was the Creator, He would be the Man who would die for the sins of the world and would rise on the third day, He was the One who would heal everyone in the areas where He walked, and He was the Son of God. **But He was a Personal Savior and He desired to meet this woman to give her what she thirsted for.**

Application:

The woman came to the well because she was thirsty. She can be seen as a representative of many people in the world. They are searching but they do not know what they are searching for. They are NOT searching for God because the Bible tells us that no one seeks after God. They are thirsty but they do not know what they need.

There are many in the world like this woman. They jump from one thing to another. In their search they make many poor choices and are forced to live with the consequences. Maybe this is you and because of your poor choices you feel as though you have sinned beyond the grace of God. That is a lie of the Devil. Just as Jesus desired to give this woman what she needed to fill the void, so He wants to do the same for you.

➤ **The Satisfaction of the Savior**

Notice John 4:8-10

She knew how the Jews viewed the Samaritans. Jesus then made an offer to give her living water. This is an offer to give her that which satisfies the soul. This is an offer of lasting satisfaction.

Application:

Salvation is far more than the forgiveness of sin. He comes to not only save us but to give us what our souls are thirsting for. This woman was looking for lasting satisfaction in relationships. But she is completely empty.

Did you know that even believers can be empty because they find themselves searching for lasting satisfaction apart from the Lord? Moms can find themselves thinking that if they can raise the perfect family, they will have satisfaction. They find themselves thinking if they can get their husband to be the perfect husband they will then be satisfied. So, they spend all their efforts trying to find this lasting satisfaction in the perfect family and they always fall short. That is not where satisfaction is found. You need a closer walk with the Lord.

Jeremiah 2:13

¹³ For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

You and I will never find fulfillment apart from Jesus Christ. You can be saved and you can still be spiritually thirsty because you are drinking from the wrong source.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

⁴ *I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:*

⁵ *I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:*

⁶ *I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:*

⁷ *I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:*

⁸ *I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.*

⁹ *So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.*

¹⁰ *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

¹¹ *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

Conclusion:

If you are unsaved the Lord offers to you living water.

Revelation 21:6

⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

If you are saved and you are thirsty you need to go back to the well of living water. Get away from the cisterns of the world.