

## Pt 21 Woman at the Well Part 2 – John 4:16-30

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church [www.pbcknox.com](http://www.pbcknox.com)

### John 4:16-30

16 Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.**  
17 The woman answered and said, **I have no husband.** Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband:**  
18 **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.**  
19 The woman saith unto him, **Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.**  
20 **Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**  
21 Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.**  
22 **Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.**  
23 **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.**  
24 **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**  
25 The woman saith unto him, **I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.**  
26 Jesus saith unto her, **I that speak unto thee am he.**  
27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, **What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?**  
28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,  
29 **Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**  
30 **Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.**

Last week we looked at verses 1-15 which found Jesus leaving the area of Judea because of the pressure the Pharisees were looking to place on him. It was not time yet for Jesus to be entangled with them, so he left and headed toward Galilee. On his way to Galilee the Bible says that he “must needs go through Samaria.” As we discussed last time, there were 3 different routes that he could have taken to get to where he was going but he chose the one through Samaria for a reason. The reason, of course, was because he had divine intervention with a woman who he would meet at Jacob’s well.

As Jesus conversed with the woman, it was apparent that she did not perceive that he was the Messiah. She seemed to have somewhat of a chip on her shoulder because she was a Samaritan, and he was a Jew. She wanted to put up resistance and didn’t understand that she had a great need that only He could help her with. After Jesus started revealing spiritual things to her, she could only think in a physical sense and not a spiritual one, and that is where we pick up the story this morning.

16 Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** 17 The woman answered and said, **I have no husband.** Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband:** 18 **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.**

His reply must have hit her like a ton of bricks and had to have caught her off guard! How did he know? Has he been spying on me? Has somebody been talking about me? I mean he just stood there and called her out on her sin.

And, that is a necessary ingredient in witnessing to someone. The reason for sharing the good news is because of the bad news. Good news is there is living water (salvation) the bad news is you are a sinner. A lost person must understand they are a sinner before they can be saved. Sometimes that is one of the most difficult parts of witnessing. So many people today base their spiritual condition on their works. They compare themselves with others and they always point out people that are much worse than they are. “Well, at least I’m not like so and so.” “Well, at least I go to church.” etc.

The sin that Jesus points out to her is not only that she has gone through five husbands, but she is also living with a man now that is not her husband.

Our culture has diminished so badly that people nowadays have the warped idea that there is nothing wrong with living with someone without being married. They call it “co-habiting. Let’s call it what it really is “shacking up,” and it’s wrong, it is sinful, it is immoral, Just as Jesus is pointing out to this Samaritan woman.

And like most people, instead of confronting her sin, she immediately attempts to change the subject. Look at it:

19 The woman saith unto him, **Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.** 20 **Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**

Now we see the conviction starting to take place. Instead of Jesus being crazy, she now realizes that she must be dealing with a prophet. Only a prophet could know these things about her.

Notice that her next question is asking where the proper place to worship is? She has some knowledge of religion. The Samaritans had built their own temple on Mount Gerizim and that is where they worshipped. But the Jews worshiped on Mount Moriah in the Temple at Jerusalem. She’s asking Jesus which is the right place?

You would be amazed at the number of unsaved people that have some little bit of religion and they try to use it against Christians. Like the sinners favorite Bible verse: **Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.** This verse is one of the most overused and misinterpreted verses in all the Bible. It gets quoted anytime someone has their sin called out.

Listen, the Bible does not teach us not to judge, it teaches us to judge properly. That’s why you can’t just stop with that one verse, you must quote the rest of the passage to put it in proper context:

**Matthew 7:2-5 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.**

Jesus also says in **John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

So we are not told not to judge, but to judge righteously. Jesus is righteously judging this woman and she is under conviction because she knows she is living in sin. But Jesus is going to play along with her religious questioning so he can prick her heart with the truth.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

Jesus quickly lets her know that it isn't religion that she needs. Religion never saved anyone. What she needs to do is believe in Jesus. That's what he says at the beginning of **verse 21**, he said "**Woman, believe me.**" Don't get caught up in the proper place to worship, God only accepts true worship and that is those that worship him in spirit and in truth. Doesn't matter if it's on a mountain in a temple, in a boat, a cave, in the desert, or even at the side of a well.

That is another thing we must remember when we are witnessing. People get caught up in religious things. That's how the Mormons pull people in and the Jehovah's Witnesses, it's all about the proper mode of religion. The truth is, it doesn't matter if you are Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, or Lutheran, religion never saved anybody. It's believing in the Lord Jesus Christ that saves.

When Jesus died on the cross the law was fulfilled. The veil in the Temple was rent. The Levitical Priesthood was done away. Believers became priests and Jesus became our great High Priest. There are no more sacrifices to be made, Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice. It's not about religion, it's about a relationship with Christ!

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

And now we see the miraculous transformation of this Samaritan woman. The truth has been revealed to her. She is a lost sinner in need of salvation. Salvation doesn't come through some religious routine or rite. It can only come through the One who can give her the water of life freely. She now understands that the living water Jesus was talking about was not physical water, it is spiritual water, and she knows that when Messiah comes that he will bring with him the truth of salvation.

**Now look at it. Don't you miss this. If you miss this, you've missed the whole thing.**

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

Well Glory to God! Jesus standing there in front of her reveals to her who He is and point blank for the first time in Scripture from his own lips Jesus declares that HE is the Messiah! "**I that speak unto thee am he.**" I AM the Messiah.

- Now, I can't tell you what her reaction was when he said that.
- I can't tell you what she said to him or anything that occurred between that and the next verse.
- But I can tell you this. She believed on Jesus as her Messiah and at that very moment the Samaritan woman was saved! Saved! Saved! Saved!

27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? 28 The woman then **left her waterpot**, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

Suddenly that physical water is no longer important to her but something else is... telling others about Jesus! The disciples had just been in the city to buy food and from all indications never opened their mouth about Jesus. Yet here is this little sinner saved by grace Samaritan woman running around telling everybody about Him.

Praise God, Hallelujah, it is the sign of a changed life! She became a new creature in Christ. The old creature would never have told anyone about him.

I'm so glad that Jesus can take the vilest sinner and wash him clean.

- He can sober up the old drunkard and make a new creature out of him.
- He can clean up that crack addict sitting in the gutter smoking crack from a broken car antenna.
- He can heal the sin sickness of the most wicked sodomite.
- He can even cause the bomb vest wearing Muslim Terrorist throw away his bombs.

When Jesus gets ahold of you all bets are off! Old things are passed away, behold all things become new! That Samaritan woman went to that well thirsty but came way with living water never to thirst again!

We don't have time to finish the rest of this today but next time we will see Jesus teach his disciples a lesson in witnessing and then we will see the reaction of the people in Samaria when the worst woman in town starts sharing the Gospel.