

Touched by Jesus- Woman at the Well

There's no telling how many lives have been touched by Jesus over the last twenty centuries. Lives that were headed for a Christ-less eternity in hell, have been eternally rescued from the feared grip of Satan, hell and the grave. The impact, not just on the eternal destiny of individuals, but on the culture, morals, and even overall direction of nations is immeasurable.

But today and the weeks to come, we are studying the lives of individuals who met Jesus personally during His earthly ministry and were transformed by that encounter. We are considering the causes as well as the consequences. And, we are ultimately considering how those ancient encounters with the incarnate God might help us to know how to better know and be changed by the resurrected Christ.

Read John 4:1-42 (HCSB)

1 When Jesus knew that the Pharisees heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), 3 He left Judea and went again to Galilee. 4 He had to travel through Samaria, 5 so He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from His journey, sat down at the well. It was about six in the evening. John 4:1-6 (HCSB)

Jesus knew what the Pharisees knew, not because He had a network of undercover spies, but because He was omniscient/all-knowing God. We can assume that He left Judea to avoid the escalating animosity toward Him from the Jewish leaders. It was not His time.

"He had to travel through Samaria" simply because it was the shortest, only reasonable route from Judea to Galilee. Judea was the region west and northwest of the Dead Sea containing Jerusalem. Galilee is the region northwest of the Sea of Galilee. The Jordan River runs south from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Located exactly between these two regions, west of the Jordan River was Samaria. It would be like you or me traveling to South Carolina. We would have to go through Georgia. Sychar was a Samaritan town on the route from Judea to Galilee.

Jesus, omniscient Son of God knew what the Pharisees knew. Jesus the man was tired from the long journey, 30-40 miles, from Judea. He sat down by Jacob's well.

It's interesting to observe the times that Jesus used His omnipotence and omniscience while at other times He restricted Himself to the limitations and weaknesses of the flesh. I believe you consistently find that Jesus only used His power for the benefit of others and the kingdom, not for His own comfort or pleasure.

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give Me a drink," Jesus said to her, 8 for His disciples had gone into town to buy food. 9 "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked Him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. John 4:7-9 (HCSB)

Jesus was thirsty. Apparently there was no community bucket, or Jesus was too tired to retrieve the water Himself, or He was seizing an opportunity, in spite of His thirst, to share the gospel with this local woman.

The traditional Jewish animosity against Samaritans had been going on for several hundred years as the Assyrians had settled people there who had intermarried and intermingled religions with the Jews of that region. The Samaritans were not allowed to participate in the rebuilding of the temple following the captivity so they built their own.

10 Jesus answered, “If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would ask Him, and He would give you living water.” 11 “Sir,” said the woman, “You don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this ‘living water’? 12 You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock.” 13 Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life.” 15 “Sir,” the woman said to Him, “give me this water so I won’t get thirsty and come here to draw water.” John 4:10-15 (HCSB)

*Jesus used a “normal” conversation to introduce an eternal subject.

*Jesus used an earthly need (water) to describe a heavenly need (salvation). (Nicodemus)

She didn’t get it, but she was open and curious. This led to the opportunity for Jesus to explain more fully what He meant. This water of course that Jesus offered was eternal life. And one who has truly received will be like a spring.

Our Florida springs are a beautiful picture of what Jesus was talking about. This water is the purest on earth. Dannon and Publix water are bottled at Ginnie Springs not too far from Gainesville. The flow is continuous. It is not interrupted by even the worst of drought. It comes from deep with the earth. It is pure, refreshing, and unending.

Salvation offered by Christ is perfect, pure and eternal. It does not and cannot be stopped. One who is truly saved will never run dry or lose their salvation. The source of eternal life runs deeper and longer than any man or demon can stop or hinder.

16 “Go call your husband,” He told her, “and come back here.” 17 “I don’t have a husband,” she answered. “You have correctly said, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus said. 18 “For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” 19 “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that You are a prophet. John 4:16-19 (HCSB)

Jesus changed the subject rather abruptly. Why, when she was at least very curious and interested in this “living water,” did Jesus want her to go get her husband? Again, Jesus the Son of God knew this woman’s moral failures. And remember, Jesus said, “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” The woman could be interested in this living water all the rest of her life, but if she did not confess and repent of her sins, she would perish eternally in hell. So it was time to confront her about her sin and He did it in a creative way.

It seems that she was honest about her sin. In fact, Jesus acknowledged that she was. Then she acknowledged that Jesus was a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you [Jews] say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” 21 Jesus told her, “Believe Me, woman, an hour 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, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:20-24

The subject changed again this time by the woman, and the topic- worship. Jesus did not force the conversation back to living water. He met her where she was and continued to reveal truth to her.

Note: It is valuable to be able to intelligently and correctly answer questions brought up by a person who is truly seeking answers on the way to salvation. Sunday PMs- “Defending the Faith”

Lessons on worship:

It’s not about a place

True worship is toward God alone

Worship in spirit- with undistracted, undiluted passion and purity

Worship in Truth- What we say and do in worship must perfectly agree up with God’s word.

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will explain everything to us.” 26 “I am [He],” Jesus told her, “the One speaking to you.” John 4:25-26 (HCSB)

Even though she was a Samaritan woman, she was obviously at least somewhat knowledgeable in the Jewish faith, maybe even a sincere worshipper of God, though His commands on morality had not had much effect on her..... Jesus boldly, openly claimed to be that Messiah she was looking for.

27 Just then His disciples arrived, and they were amazed that He was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do You want?” or “Why are You talking with her?” 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the men, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They left the town and made their way to Him. John 4:27-30 (HCSB)

I guess the disciples had learned by then that Jesus didn’t always follow Jewish traditions and protocol. Here was a woman with a great need and Jesus, though tired, thirsty and hungry took the time and effort to address that need. Did she become a true follower of Christ? Yes.

Evidence of salvation:

She admitted her sin.

She said she wanted the living water.

She acknowledged Jesus was a prophet.
She went all over Sychar telling people about Jesus.

Though a woman of not the best reputation, the men believed her enough to come check out what she said. My guess is she was very passionate and emotional as she went around town.
Note: It's not just the message. It's how we carry the message.

39 Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 Therefore, when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of what He said. 42 And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world." John 4:39-42 (HCSB)

Many believed just because of the testimony of the woman! God moved on that town. Jesus stayed two more days and many more believed in Him. But, it all started through the woman probably had a pretty bad reputation prior to meeting Jesus. She was untrained and inexperienced in sharing the gospel but many came to Christ because of her. She just told her story.

Touched by Jesus:

Repent. Repentance is absolutely necessary for salvation. You may have done everything else "by the Book," but if you did not repent, you are not saved. You can't skip this step. Sin is the whole reason we need Jesus and His salvation gift..... Jesus' first message.....

15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!" Mark 1:15 (HCSB)

This is why people have so much trouble rejecting the ridiculous, unscientific claims of evolution. They don't want to repent.... This is why people claim to be atheists.... They don't want to repent.

The eternal water of life is available and it's free. If I tried to sell it to you I'd be a liar and a thief. Just repent, come believing and drink!

Worship in spirit and truth. Worship is not about this building, this time, the music, or the message. It is about you expressing your love and adoration for the one true God of all creation out of a pure and passionate heart. This beautiful building, these musicians, these messengers may help, or they may hinder you, but the truth of the matter is that it's all up to you.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. 7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care.[5 Psalms 95:6-7 (HCSB)

If you have or haven't worshipped today. Blame it on someone else if you like, but in truth it's your choice, your attitude, your appetite for God that has drawn you to the table or caused you to push away claiming to not be fed.

Be ready. If you are saved, even a new believer, you should be telling your story. Remember the former demoniac and woman at the well? Both began telling their story on the very day they met Jesus.

Christians should be like most wild animals- born, mature quickly, reproduce frequently. In truth, most of us are more like Salmon. We're born, then we spend all of our Christian life swimming around in the ocean of Sunday School and worship, and very few of us ever make the swim upstream to reproduce.

It is important as you grow in your faith to gain biblical insight and equip yourself to answer the tough questions people may ask so you can defend the faith. (Sunday evenings)

always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15b (HCSB)

But, if you're saved, you already have a story. You don't have to wait until you have a theological degree to tell others what Christ has done for you. Tell them now. Start swimming upstream now. Go reproduce now.

Learn from Jesus. Deny self (tired, hungry, thirsty) Did He even get a drink of water?....Then He took a normal, easy to understand, everyday conversation and turned it into a spiritual, life-transforming conversation: water = eternal life. You can do this too!