

John: As I Have Loved You

Week 8: Woman at the Well

Passage: John 4:1-26



**Read John 4:1-26**

As the passage opens, we see that Jesus is going through Samaria on his way back to Galilee. The history between Jews and Samaritans was long and filled with tension and hostility. Despite this, Jesus gives us a powerful example of connecting with someone that is not from his “tribe”. *How often do you engage people in conversation with people that aren’t a part of your “tribe”? Do you have friends that are unbelievers? How would you describe your approach to evangelism?*

Jesus’ central analogy in this passage has to do with “living water”. **Re-read verses 10-14.** *In your own words, what is Jesus referring to when he talks about “living water”? What is its source and what does it eventually become? Is this analogy easy or difficult for you to grasp? How have you experienced this “living water” in your life?*

Starting in verse 19, the Samaritan woman looks to change the topic by bringing up one of the biggest points of contention between the Jews and the Samaritans: the proper place to worship God. *Why would Jesus’ response have been so shocking to someone living in this time? In your own words, what does Jesus mean when he says those who worship God “must worship in spirit and truth”? How would this statement be both liberating and challenging?*

It is in the final two verses of this passage (vs. 25-26) that Jesus claims to be the Messiah for the first time in John’s gospel account. *What does it say about Jesus that he revealed himself as the Messiah for the first time to a Samaritan woman of ill-repute? What does this imply about the message that Jesus is proclaiming and the woman that is hearing it?*

*Close your time in prayer. Praise God for giving us a “flesh and bones” example to follow in His son Jesus. Thank God for meeting us in our mess and providing “living water” to us through Jesus. Ask God for the courage to engage with and love others that aren’t a part of your “tribe” so that the light of the gospel will shine in darkness.*