

In Samaria, Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip. So he sat down beside the well. It was about noon. 7A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." (This happened while Jesus' followers were in town buying some food.)

The woman said, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink. You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan." (Jews are not friends with Samaritans because the Jews believed that Samaritans weren't true followers of God. **The problem was, however, that the Jews were no longer true followers of God either!!**)

Jesus said, "You don't know what God gives. And you don't know who asked you for a drink. If you knew, you would have asked me, and I would have given you living water."

The woman said, "Sir, where will you get that living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. Are you greater than Jacob, our father? Jacob is the one who gave us this well. He drank from it himself. Also, his sons and flocks drank from this well."

Jesus answered, "Every person who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will become a spring of water flowing inside him. It will give him eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty again. And I will not have to come back here to get more water."

Jesus told her, "Go get your husband and come back here."

The woman answered, "But I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right to say you have no husband. Really you have had five husbands. But the man you live with now is not your husband. You told the truth."

The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship."

Jesus said, "Believe me, woman. The time is coming when you will not have to be in Jerusalem or on this mountain to worship the Father. You Samaritans worship what you don't understand. We Jews understand what we worship. Salvation comes from the Jews. The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. That time is now here. And these are the kinds of worshipers the Father wants. God is spirit. Those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming." (Messiah is the One called Christ.) "When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus said, "He is talking to you now. I am he."

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to town. She said to the people, "A man told me everything I have ever done. Come see him. Maybe he is the Christ!" So the people left the town and went to see Jesus.

Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman said: "He told me everything I have ever done." The Samaritans came to Jesus and begged him to stay with them. So he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of the things he said.

They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of what you told us. But now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world."