

ENCOUNTER: A WOMAN MET JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL:

JOHN 4:1-30

1 When therefore the LORD knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

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.

Jesus had to go through Samaria on His journey, because that day, a certain woman had to have her Encounter with Him. The Jews and the Samaritans went to great lengths qto avoid having to interact with each other. Most Jews who were traveling from Judah to Galilee would find another route other than going through Samaria. Jesus intentionally chose to go through Samaria. John 4:4 says” He must needs go through Samaria.

It was not by accident that He met the woman there. It was a Devine appointment. Jesus was thirsty, it was about noon, the disciples were gone into town to buy bread, Jesus was alone at the well. The woman went to the well at noon to get water. Customary, women went to get water at the well in the morning when it was cool, not at noon when the sun was hot.

It was not the norm for a Jewish man to speak to a Samaritan woman, even worse, to ask a favor from her. Jesus asked the woman to give Him some water to drink. The woman was surprised at His request, this is evident by her response. In it she reminded Him that He was a Jew, and she was a Samaritan, and He was asking her to give Him a drink of water.(John 4 :7-9)

She was stuck on tradition and culture, Jesus was there to show her that there were no differences between Jews and Samaritans, and that He came to break the barriers and set people of all cultures and nationalities free.

A very healthy dialog took place between Jesus and the woman, which took on various subjects such as the well, drawing the water, the water in the well, thirst and living water. Jesus told her that all who drank water from that well, would thirst again, however; He gives the Living Water,

Whoever drinks of the water He gives, will never thirst again. The woman became interested in the water Jesus had to offer and asked Him to give her some of the water He has, and she would no longer go back to that well to draw water.

He told her to go and call her husband. Her reply was that she did not have a husband. She was told she answered correctly, and He told her about her past relationships and her present relationships with men. Her response was that she perceived that He was a prophet and changed the subject to places where they should worship.

Jesus told her the important thing about worship is not where you worship but how and who we worship. He said that she had a ritualistic form of worship and had no knowledge of what is worship; however; the Jews knew who they worship.

He told her that the hour had come for true worshippers to worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, because God is a Spirit, and He seeks true worshippers to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

When she heard that statement, she tried to change the subject again, and stated that she knew that the Messiah was about to come, and when He comes, He will tell them all things. At that point Jesus revealed Himself to her this was His response to her in verse 26 of John chapter 4, "I that speak to you, am He"

Jesus revealed Himself to the woman. She then realized that she was having her Encounter with the Messiah. At that point a transformation took place in her, she was no longer a woman who went to the well in the middle of the day to draw water, but a woman on a mission to evangelize the community.

She disassociated herself from her water pot, by leaving it at the well. Her mission was urgent.

She ran into the town and invited the men to come and see for themselves a Man she met, who told her everything about herself, then she asks the question, “Is not this the Christ.?” The term the Christ is referring to the title of the Messiah. In verse 25 while speaking with Jesus she said she knew that the Messiah who is called Christ would be coming. Then, that she met Him and had a conversation with Him, she wanted them to go and meet Him for themselves.

Her message was short and urgent, however; her enthusiastic delivery caused the men to listen to it, and they saw the change in her. She did not have the water pot, instead she was excited about her encounter and her desire for the men of the town to experience Jesus for themselves.

She had a positive response from the men, they went out to see Jesus for themselves.

This passage shows us (a) An Encounter with Jesus causes changes in an individual.

(B) She left the water pot which was associated with her past.

(C) Her message was important and urgent, she did not want to take with her anything that would slow her down, or that identified with her past that she left behind. She did not take the water pot with her.

(D) Telling our stories will motivate others to get to know Christ for themselves.

(F) Our Encounter should bring noticeable change in us.

(G) Our Encounter should change our mission, the woman went to the well to get water, she left her water pot, because she had the living water flowing out of her. Instead of drawing water from the well, her new mission was to draw men to Christ.

(H) Notice the name of the woman was not mentioned, the message was not intended to draw attention to an individual, but more to show what happens when we are intentional about our purpose. (a) Jesus could have chosen another route. He did not have to go through Samaria to get to Galilee, but He was intentional, He knew that He would meet that woman whose life would be

changed. (b) Her name was left out because such change can apply to anyone who has an Encounter with Jesus. (c)

Verse 6 says Jesus was weary, this shows His humanity. (d) Although Jesus was weary it did not stop Him from fulfilling His purpose, when the woman went to the well while He was resting.

(e) He was not too weary to initiate a conversation with a stranger which would have a life changing effect on her and her community. (f) He revealed His identity as the Messiah to the woman after she mentioned that the Christ would be coming soon, and He would tell them all things. He enlightens her to understand that the Messiah has come, and He was the One who was having the conversation with her. (g) Jesus also revealed His Deity to her when He told her that she was speaking with the Christ, Whom she said would tell them all things. (h) The woman was convinced that she met Christ because He told her all the things she had done. (i) She wanted others to meet the Messiah for themselves, she said to them “come and see, if He is not the Christ. By saying come and see, implied that she was going with them to meet Jesus. She did not send them, she accompanied them, which showed support in helping them to get to know Jesus.

We should be intentional in fulfilling our purpose, Jesus went by way of Samaria so that the Samaritans would get to meet their Christ.

We too like the woman who met Jesus at the well should go speedily to tell others the story of our encounter, and invite them to come and decide for themselves if He is not the Christ . The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 34:8; O, Taste and see that the Lord in good.

We must make it our priority to invite others to get to know Jesus for themselves.