



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Woman at the Well!

Lesson Text: John 4:1-42

Focus Verses: John 4:13-15 - 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.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus invited a marginalized woman into covenant.

Covenant Context: after Jesus' middle-of-the-night conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus broke Jewish protocol and had a middle-of-day conversation with a woman in Samaria. He taught her and introduced Himself to her as the Messiah. Jesus was extending covenant relationships beyond the Jews to a people group the Jewish people loathed. Clearly, God's covenant was for all people.

The Jews despised the Samaritans and avoided them at all cost, because they regarded the Samaritan as an idolatrous people whose Jewish ancestors had corrupted when they intermarried with the sinful Gentiles. But Jesus walked into the center of Samaria with a purpose. Why would a Jewish holy man ask for a drink from this Samaritan woman? Little did this woman know, but Jesus had come with a message with the power to tear down long-standing barriers between people groups, no matter how long they were up or who built them.

The Samaritan woman asked Jesus for the living water. Jesus explained that this living water had the power to keep her from ever thirsting again. Now she was intrigued. She asked Jesus to give her this living water so she would no longer need to walk to the well. Up to that point, the Samaritan woman was a little like Nicodemus. She didn't understand what Jesus was teaching either. Then Jesus asked her to go get her husband so they could all talk; "I have no husband." Jesus' next words must have shaken her to the core: "*Thou hast well said, I have no husband: for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband*" (John 4:17-18). How did He know?! Once Jesus miraculously told her about her past, she rushed into the city to tell everyone she could about Jesus.

Her excitement ought to remind us of the joy we felt when we first were filled with the Spirit of God. In our excitement, we wanted to tell everyone we met about how wonderful God is and how He changed our lives. May we never lose that joyful feeling and that desire to tell others about the power of Jesus. Let us never lose the wonder found in His so sweet salvation.

Perhaps the Samaritan woman was not worthy in her own eyes or in the eyes of others, but in the eyes of Jesus, she was a soul in need of the salvation He came to give. Often, we make the mistake of disqualifying ourselves from communion with God. We allow our sins, our self-perceptions, and the perceptions of others to define us and ultimately disqualify us from entering into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. However, in spite of our attempts to disqualify ourselves, Jesus still reaches for us, inviting us to enter into a covenant relationship with Him.

In a society that looks to divide and to ostracize those who do not fit within its molds, Jesus is calling His church to look for those whom society rejects and looks down upon. In fact, Jesus, reading from Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18, proclaimed His purpose. While the disciples had been focused on satisfying their earthly desire for food, Jesus was focused on satisfying His spiritual desire to invite men and women to become part of His kingdom.

Our society seems to thrive on deepening the division between people groups, even while calling for more equality. **But true equality is only found in Jesus Christ.** When we are baptized with His Spirit, we all become parts of one body, where every member is equally valuable (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). The Holy Spirit, in many ways, is the great equalizer that unites us together, regardless of our racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic backgrounds (Revelation 7:9). To allow prejudices to get in the way of our ministry to this hurting world is completely opposed to the nature and plan of God. Let us instead choose to be like Jesus, who raised up those who were rejected and invited them into the joy of newness of life.