

RADICAL

We can easily think that Jesus would live just like us; however, Jesus was radical in the way He lived and constantly challenged society's normal rules. He would probably really challenge us today. Are you open for God to challenge you about ways you might be living the same way the world does things? Read Psalm 139:23-24. Pray it back to God as you ask Him to do this for you. Write down below what are the things you most want right now to make your life good (be honest).

Read John 4:1-45 in your own Bible and take the time to underline things that are important, circle key people or things that are mentioned. Use the cross-references to look at other passages that will help you understand what it is saying. This will help you answer questions that require you to know the whole account as we zero in on specific passages!

John 4:1-6¹Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. ⁴And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So He *came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.



- 1) Why did Jesus leave Judea and go to Galilee? Why do you think Jesus didn't baptize anyone?
- 2) Why did Jesus "have to" go through Samaria? (note there is more than 1 answer)

Here is a summary to help you understand who the Samaritans were (from Blue Letter Bible):

The Samaritans were a group of people who lived in Samaria - an area north of Jerusalem. They were half-Jews and half-Gentiles. When Assyria captured the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. some were taken in captivity while others left behind. The ones left behind intermarried with the Assyrians. Thus these people were neither fully Hebrews nor fully Gentiles. The Samaritans had their own unique copy of the first five books of Scripture as well as their own unique system of worship. At the time of Jesus the Jews and the Samaritans did not deal with one another. Jesus, however, ministered to the people of Samaria preaching the good news to them.

- 3) Based on this, why do you think the Jew's hated and did not associate with Samaritans?
- 4) What time of the day was it and how was Jesus feeling?
- 5) How does this passage change your opinion about Jesus' humanity? Why is that important?

John 4:7-15 ⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?" ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

- 6) Why do you think the woman came at midday (12pm)? Notice she was the only one.
- 7) What is significant about Jesus' request to her? (*beyond not saying please*)
- 8) Jesus challenged that if she had realized 2 things, she would have asked for living water. What are they and what do they mean?

9) What are two truths about the living water and why do you think she wanted it?

John 4:16-26 ¹⁶ He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

10) After the Samaritan woman expressed her desire for "the living water", Jesus changed the subject totally and directed her to go get her husband. Why do you think He did that?

11) The woman then asked a theological question, why do you think she changed the subject?

12) What did Jesus mean when He said: "I who speak to you am He".

John 4:27-38 ²⁷ At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" ²⁸ So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city and said to the men, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" ³⁰ They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³² But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" ³⁴ Jesus

said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

13) When the disciples came back, there were a few things they were trying to figure out. List them. Why were they shocked? What specific concern did they have for Jesus?

14) What had the woman learned from Jesus and how do her actions show she had changed?

15) After the woman told the towns people what she had found, what did she invite them to do?

16) What did Jesus mean when He said: “I have food you do not know about”. What was that food and how should that affect the way we think and live?

17) What did Jesus say about the harvest and what did He want his disciples to realize? How does this relate to what He had just done and would later ask them to do?

John 4:39-45 ³⁹ From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of His word; ⁴² and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.” ⁴³ After the two days He went forth from there

into Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

18) What were two ways mentioned that helped the towns people come to faith in Jesus?

19) What do you think it was like for them to have 2 days with Jesus? Write down some things that may have happened over this time of fellowshiping with their Messiah.

20) Why is it true that “a prophet has no honor in his own country”?

APPLICATION

21) Name some social norms or rules that Jesus had broken? What are social norms or rules that God wants you to break (on His behalf)?

22) What did Jesus do to initiate a spiritual conversation? How can we apply this principle?

23) From all that we learned about the woman at the well, what do you think she would say are the things that she really wanted to make her life worth living? Are these different from what you or your friends want?

24) What does it take to be able to fully drink the living water Jesus described and allow it to be that well that springs up into our everyday lives as well as our eternal life?

Pray and thank God for the way He meets your needs and ask Him to remove anything that is blocking or contaminating the spring of living water He has for you!