

## Lesson 06: The Conversation with the Samaritan Woman

Objective: To know that Jesus loves sinners and He offers "living water" (new life) to everyone regardless of race, sex, and social status.

Background: Since there was a growing hostility to His ministry, Jesus decided to leave Judea and return to Galilee; but, strangely, He went "via Samaria." It was the quickest way from Judea to Galilee, and yet the Jews avoided the route because *they hated the Samaritans*, a mixed race. For centuries there was an enmity between them. (2 Kings 17:21-24; Ezra 4:1-24)

Instruction: Read the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, Jn. 4:1-42, as if you were present at the scene. Be sure to locate the places on a map.

Let's Think: Visualize the woman's *facial expressions throughout* the conversation.

Usual Scene -At Jacob's well (1/2 mile from town), *in the cool of* early morning or evening; women from Sychar come to fill their water Jars; they talk and gossip as they do their chore. (cf. Genesis 24: 11)

Unusual Scene -At Jacob's Well; *during the hottest time* of the day; no women in sight; the Samaritan woman came to draw water .

1. a. Does Jn 4: 16-18 provide some clues as to why the woman came at this time of the day? Explain.  
b. Do you suppose Jesus knew what sort of woman she was from the beginning? Explain.
2. a. How do you describe the woman when Jesus asked her for a drink? and why?  
Was Jesus a *conformist*? Discuss. (Read carefully Jn 4: 7-9, 27.)  
b. Why was she puzzled when Jesus offered her "living water" (new life)? (Jn 4: 10-12) How is the water Jesus offers, better than the water from the well? (Jn 4: 13-14; Jn 7:37-38)
3. a. What made the woman want the water that Jesus offers? Did she really understand? (Jn 4 15)  
b. Why did Jesus bring up her past at this point? Was it necessary? Explain. (Jn 4:16-18)
4. a. Why did she suddenly change to the subject to worship? What was her question?  
b. In response, what did Jesus teach her about *true worship* ? Give the truth taught. (Jn 4: 19-24 )  
By the way, are you the kind of worshipper whom God seeks?
5. a. How did the woman's *view of Jesus change* as the conversation went on? (Jn 4: 6, 7, 9, 19, 25-26, 29)  
b. Was she the same person who came to draw water when she headed back to the town? Explain.
6. a. Why were her words *effective* in bringing other Samaritans to Jesus? Analyze it. (Jn 4: 28-30)  
How much theology does one need in order to witness effectively for Jesus?  
b. How did the Samaritans come to believe in Jesus? Show the steps. Is it universal? (Jn 4:29-30; 39-42)
7. a. What *qualities* impressed you most as you watch Jesus at work by the well? Explain.  
b. Do you believe that you can have a fresh beginning if you come to Jesus with your past? Read also 1Jn.1:8; Jn.1:12-13; Rm.8:1; 2 Cor.5:17.

Let's Remember: "...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4: 14)