

# The Samaritan Woman's Hope and Despair

John 4:1-20

Life Group Discussion – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

In Samaria, Jesus meets a woman who is broken and hurt. She has been married five times before and is now living with another man.

Before she met Jesus, she was living without hope. Before Christ, our lives can never be completely at peace or fulfilled.

King Solomon, the wisest man in history, said this

**“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)**

Solomon repeats the word ‘meaningless’ four times in this one verse. This ‘meaningless’ in Hebrew is meant to mean emptiness and without substance. Even if someone’s life may seem great from the outside, it is truly empty and without meaning if they do not have Jesus.

Many people are like the Samaritan woman, searching for meaning in this world and trying to find happiness. But what many people do not know is that true happiness can only be found in the faith and understanding of Jesus Christ as God of your life.

This was the life of the Samaritan woman. She was searching for happiness and meaning, but she tried to find it through her husband. She wasn’t able to find it so she changed husbands five times. Because she was embarrassed and ostracized for her lifestyle, she went to draw water from a far away well. And it was there that she met Jesus. Even though it may have seemed like coincidence, Jesus had known she was coming and was waiting for her.

Even though it may seem like we met God by accident or through coincidence, God was waiting for us to reveal Himself at the exact right moment and place.

This is why there is no need for us to look at our past mistakes. No matter what has happened or what you have gone through, God was there with us and waiting for the moment to capture our hearts.

This was the search the Samaritan woman was on, and it was Jesus who promised to give her everlasting water that will quench her thirst forever.

The Samaritan woman asks Jesus,

**Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock. (John 4:12)**

Jesus answers,

**Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14)**

Jesus says that whoever drinks the water He gives will never be thirsty again.

**On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37-38)**

Jesus is the living water.

Therefore when we believe in Jesus, we are drinking Him as well.

There are so many people who try to logically understand Jesus but He is not someone who we will ever be able to understand in this lifetime. All we can do is eat and drink of who He is. This is why our spiritual lives are not ones that just know about Jesus, but are ones that need to experience who He is. We need a true encounter with Jesus Christ.

Jesus answers the Samaritan woman,

**Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” (John 4:16)**

Jesus says something that the Samaritan woman would never have expected. This was because it was her darkest secret, the reason why she avoided everyone and came to a deserted well. But you cannot move forward into the future if you do not take care of your past. It doesn’t matter how well you treat the outside symptoms if the true cancer is in the inside. Jesus wanted to heal the Samaritan woman’s past completely.

After Jesus points this out, the Samaritan woman responds,

**The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” (John 4:17)**

In order to be healed, we must be honest before God. It’s only those who are honest and upright that will be forgiven and healed of their sins. And it is only those who are honest that will experience the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to be healed. We must go before the cross and ask for forgiveness in honesty.

Jesus is asking who will be honest before Him. He desires sincere, humble people. This is why there is no need for any fake behavior or lying. Our sin will never be healed if we cannot come before God and others in honesty and humility.

During worship, we come before God and ask for forgiveness for our sins. Our flesh wants us to just hide our sin, conceal it and let it go but we have to fight that feeling and go before God with humility, asking for forgiveness. This is the only way to receive healing.

While the Samaritan woman was speaking to Jesus, her heart began to open and she began to understand who Jesus was. When we begin to understand who Jesus is, our first desire is to worship Him.

This is why the woman asks Jesus,  
“Do we need to worship on this mountain or in Jerusalem?”

Jesus answers her like this:  
**First, the meaning of worship.**

**Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. (John 4:21)**

The Samaritan woman thought there was a special place you needed to go to in order to worship. But the Bible says that worship is where you meet God. There is no order or formality when it comes to worship, it is simply a time to encounter the Lord.

The sermon is a part of worship, but it is not what worship is. We do not worship the sermon or the person who preaches it.

**Second, who God is.**

**God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)**

Because God is a spirit, we cannot see Him with our eyes. We do not worship what is right in front of us; we open our hearts and worship the God we cannot see.

Why does the church exist?

It's simply a place to worship God. Our purpose in life is also to simply worship God.

After the Samaritan woman met and talked with Jesus, her life changed completely.

**1. The woman threw away her water jar and left.**

She came to fill her jar with water, but after she met Jesus she forgot her original purpose. Actually, her purpose changed. When we met Jesus, our purpose in life changes.

**2. The woman went back and told everyone about Jesus.**

The people that made fun of her and the people that she couldn't look at were the ones she evangelized to. When we meet Jesus Christ, there is no longer a fear of man but a desire to tell them about the living God.

My brothers and sisters,

We live in this broken world carrying a heavy weight. This world cannot give us true happiness and peace, but we know that Jesus can. He is here today and wants to give you living water so that you will never thirst again. Only Jesus can give you everlasting peace.

Happiness will not come when you change your spouse or when you change your car. What the world values will not give you happiness.

But the one who does give happiness is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, and the life. I hope that we can become a church that believes this and lives this out.

## SHARING-----

1. If I were that Samaritan woman, what would my reaction be if Jesus told me to call my husband to Him?
2. The Samaritan woman changed after she met Jesus. What changed about you after you met Jesus Christ?
3. What part of the sermon stood out to you the most?