

Respect

The Woman who came for Water

Traveling from Jerusalem in the south to Galilee in the north, Jesus and his disciples took the quickest route, through **Samaria**. **Tired** and **thirsty**, Jesus sat by Jacob's Well, while his disciples went to the village of Sychar, about a half mile away, to buy food. It was about noon, the hottest part of the day, and a **Samaritan** woman came to the well at this inconvenient time, to draw water.

In his encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus broke three Jewish customs: first, **he spoke to a woman**; second, she was a **Samaritan**, a group the Jews traditionally despised; and third, **he asked her to get him a drink of water**, which would have made him ceremonially unclean from using her cup or jar. This shocked the woman at the well.

Then Jesus told the woman he could give her "**living water**" so that she would never thirst again. Jesus used the words *living water* to refer to **eternal life**, the gift that would satisfy her soul's desire only available through him. At first, the Samaritan woman did not fully understand Jesus' meaning. Although they had never met before, Jesus revealed that he knew she had had **five husbands** and was now living with a man who was not her husband. Jesus now had her attention!

As they talked about their two views on worship, the woman voiced her faith that Messiah was coming. Jesus answered, "I who speak to you am he."

As the woman began to grasp the reality of her encounter with Jesus, the disciples returned.

They were equally shocked to find him speaking to a woman. Leaving behind her water jar, the woman returned to town, inviting the people to "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did." (John 4:29, ESV)

Meanwhile, Jesus told his disciples the harvest of souls was ready, sown by the prophets, writers of the Old Testament, and **John the Baptist**. Excited by what the woman told them, the Samaritans came from Sychar and begged Jesus to stay with them.

So Jesus stayed two days, teaching the Samaritan people about the Kingdom of God. When he left, the people told the woman, "... we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."



Date: _____

1. Why was Jesus sitting at a well? [1]

2. What are the THREE Jewish customs that Jesus broke? [3]

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for? [1]

4. What is the “living water” that Jesus was telling the Samaritan woman about? [2]

5a. Did Jesus had the full attention of the women in the beginning? Write yes or no. [1]

5b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [2]

6. What was the disciples’ reaction when they found Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman? [1]

7. Why do you think Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman? [1]
