

The Samaritan Woman

The Woman Caught in Adultery

The Woman with a Hemorrhage

Day 1

The Samaritan Woman. Read John 4:1-18

1. From John 4:4-8 describe:

- *Where* was this event located?
- *Why* was Jesus there?
- *Who* was there? *Who* wasn't there?
- *When* was this happening?
- *What* was happening?

FYI : He had to go through Samaria" (4:4) "Jesus had to go through Samaria not because of geography but because of His mission.

After King Solomon died in 931 BC, Israel split in two. The northern tribes called themselves Israel and made Samaria their capital city. The southern tribes were called Judah and kept Jerusalem as their capital. In 723 BC Assyria destroyed Israel, deported most of its population, and resettled the land with other conquered people. The whole region was now called Samaria. Most of the new mixed population began to practice a religion that combined elements of pagan religion with elements of biblical faith. [See 2 Kings 17:23-41] The polytheism gradually faded, but Samaritan religion continued to be unique. The Samaritans regarded only the five books Moses as Scripture; they rejected the Prophets and other books. They also sacrificed on Mount Gerizim instead of at Jerusalem

The Jews (the people of Judah) regard the Samaritans as in some ways worse than gentiles because they worshiped the God of Israel in a corrupt fashion. In response, the Samaritans hated the Jews for rejecting them and also for taking over Galilee. Therefore, Samaritans often refused overnight shelter to Jews traveling between Galilee and Jerusalem for pilgrim feasts, and many Jews would rather go miles out of their way than set foot in Samaria."

- John (Life Change Series) (59,60)

2. How did Jesus connect with the woman of Samaria? What social barriers did He cross? 4:9

FYI: "This woman came for water at an unusual hour [6th hour in Jewish time = noon] and alone. Typically, women came for water earlier in the day and in groups. Perhaps there was a sudden need, or perhaps she was a social outcast...By tradition, a rabbi would not speak with a woman in public, even his own wife. It was also *very* unusual for a Jewish person of that time to ask a favor or accept a drink from a Samaritan's cup. Jesus' request genuinely surprised the woman."

- David Guzik

"The woman was all too aware of her needs, her inferiority. Jesus expressed a need of His own, one she could easily fill...We establish a relationship by sharing, by accepting as well as giving...In asking for that drink of water, Jesus understood that all of us need to be needed...No one else in that town would have asked such a woman for a personal favor. But Jesus did, and she expressed amazement."

- Margaret Hess (56)

"We will never cross a cultural barrier greater than the one Jesus did. He learned our language, lived in our world, ate our food...but most of all, took on our sins."

- Max Lucado

3. What three things did Jesus introduce into the conversation?
4:10 On what level was He relating to the woman?

Digging Deeper

See Jeremiah 2:3; 17:13;
John 7:37-39, and
Revelation 22:1 for
references to living water.

4. On what level did the woman respond? 4:11

- What did she question about Jesus? 4:12 (What would the connection she made between Jews and Samaritans add to the conversation?)

FYI: "Jacob's well represents common ground, since both Jews and Samaritans revered Jacob."
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (1231)

5. What difference did Jesus make between physical water versus living water? 4:13,14

- Although the woman remained on an earthly level, how did she respond to His offer of living water? 4:15 (Do you think she was sensing the spiritual implications?)

FYI: "Jesus played on images of well water, which is stagnant, and running water, which is 'living,' to describe the kind of life available to those who believe in Him. Those who trust in Christ never need to look outside themselves for satisfaction because He dwells within them, supplying every emotional and spiritual need."
- Charles Swindoll (90)

6. Why do you think Jesus changed the subject in 4:16? Why did He ask since He already knew the answer?

- Although her answer (4:17a) was truthful, what might she have been afraid would happen if she revealed all of her story?

Food for Thought: "The woman would gladly have added to her life whatever Jesus was offering. Lots of people today would like to add Jesus to the lives, but don't want to change. He knew we all need to repent....If we add something new to our household...we have to clear out the old before moving in the new. Jesus knew the woman needed to change her present life. He wanted to reach her conscience."
- Margaret Hess (59)

"She must have wondered if the kindness would cease when the truth was revealed. *He will be angry. He will leave. He will think I'm worthless.* If you've had the same anxieties, then get out your pencil. You'll want to underline Jesus' answer...No criticism? No anger? No what-kind-of-mess-have-you-made-of-your-life lectures? No. It wasn't perfection that Jesus was seeking; it was honesty."
- Max Lucado

7. Instead of criticism, how did Jesus respond to her answer? 4:17,18 (i.e. What was Jesus doing with a painful area of her life? What was He communicating to her?)

8. Underline Jesus' mission:

- Mark 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." NIV
- Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed NASU
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." NIV
- John 3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. NAS
- Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. NIV
- 1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. NIV

Applying the Word: Consider how tender Jesus was in addressing the sensitive areas of the Samaritan woman's life. Where do you need to open your heart to His compassion and forgiveness?

Day 2

The Samaritan Woman's Testimony. Read John 4:19-42

9. What did the woman realize about Jesus? John 4:19

- What question did she have about God? 4:20 (See Job 23:3)

Digging Deeper

For worship at the temple, see: 1 Kings 9:1-3; (2 Chron. 7:1,2). For Assyrian worship at the mountain, see 2 King 17:24-33.

Food For Thought: "She asked a question that revealed the gaping hole in her soul. "Where is God? My people say he is on the mountain. Your people say he is in Jerusalem. I don't know where he is." I'd give a thousand sunsets to see the expression on Jesus' face as he heard those words. Did his eyes water? Did he smile? Did he look up into the clouds and wink at his Father? Of all the places to find a hungry heart...*Samaria.*"
- Max Lucado

10. What did Jesus say about the relevance of worshipping at a certain location? 4:21

11. What did Jesus say about the difference between the way the Samaritans and Jews worshipped?: 4:22

Digging Deeper

For verses on "salvation from the Jews", see: Genesis 12:3; Acts 3:25-26; Romans 9:4-5

12. How did Jesus define true worship? 4:23

FYI: "In John's Gospel, ***Jesus' hour*** is usually associated with His crucifixion and resurrection. (2:4;7:30...). So through His death on the cross and triumph over the grave, Jesus would transform worship for God's people."
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (1232)

"Skillfully Jesus replied both to the controversial issue which she raised and to the deeper personal need concealed behind it. His reply was blunt, and He made no concession to the Samaritan position, for He said, "Salvation is from the Jews" (22). On the other hand, He lifted the whole problem out of the categories of time and space and made it a matter of the heart."
- Merrill C. Tenney (95)

in truth. True worship and saving faith no longer are mediated through types or require physical aids, now that Christ has come to bring full and free salvation. The truth in Christ, received through the Spirit by faith, is the worship the Father seeks (compare II Chronicles 16:9)."
- Henry Morris

13. What did the woman reveal about her understanding and hope? 4:25

FYI: "The woman's answer showed that there was a measure of sincerity in her heart. She could have gone away at this time, but did not... [Her] words were a confession both of ignorance and of hope. She was waiting for light, and, soiled as she was, she clung to the ancient promise of God that a Deliverer would come who would take away the darkness from her eyes. To such elementary faith as this Jesus revealed Himself more openly than He did even to Nicodemus."
- Merrill C Tenney (95)

14. Amazingly, how did Jesus respond? 4:26 (Compare Exodus 3:14; John 8:58)

- Why do you think He chose and privileged this woman with such an open revelation of Himself? Contrast Matthew 13:10-12; John 2:24 (*What does this say about the woman's heart? What does this say about grace?*)

FYI: "Even though the Samaritan religion was very deficient in many areas, they did believe in the Messianic promises, and it is significant that Jesus used His contact with this woman to convey the news of their fulfillment to these people. It is a common opinion that the Samaritans only used the Pentateuch, but they were obviously familiar with the doctrine of the coming Messiah, which is developed mostly in the books of Psalms and Prophets."
- Henry Morris

15. How did the disciples react to Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman? 4:27 Why do you think they didn't say anything?

16. What does the fact that “*she left her waterpot*” show about her state of mind? 4:28

Food for Thought: “She left behind the jug that had caused the sag in her shoulders. She left behind the burden she brought... Suddenly the insignificance of her life was swallowed by the significance of the moment. ‘God is here! God has come! God cares for me!’... How could she share her shame with excitement? Because her shame didn’t own her anymore. Jesus didn’t condemn her, so she wasn’t condemning herself. Instead, she was so focused on Jesus that her reputation no longer had any power over her...We, too, are not defined or owned by our sin. When we meet the Messiah, we meet our true selves—sons and daughters of God...You have not been sprinkled with forgiveness. You have not been spattered with grace. You have not been dusted with kindness. You have been immersed in it. You are submerged in mercy. So let it change you!”
- Max Lucado

17. What became the heart of the woman’s witness to her town? 4:29 How did the town respond? 4:30

FYI: “The woman was amazed not only that Jesus knew the facts of her life, but that He loved her knowing the facts of her life. We sometimes fear that if someone knew **all that I ever did**, they could not love us - but Jesus loved this woman.”
- David Guzik

18. Note the change in how the Samaritan woman addressed and recognized who Jesus was. (What would you say was happening to her heart?)

- 4:9
- 4:11,12
- 4:19
- 4:29

19. When the disciples returned, why do you think Jesus refused to eat? What more important “food” did Jesus want to teach his disciples about? 4:31-34

20. How do you picture Jesus’ face and the tone of His words as He speaks of the harvest in 4:35-38? (See Luke 15:7)

- What meaning would you give to the following words?
 - “Fields”
 - “White/ripe for harvest”
 - “Reaps, sows” (Compare 1 Corinthians 3:6,7)
 - “Fruit for eternal life”

Food for Thought: “Jesus had just done what he does best. He had taken a life that was drifting and given it direction. He was exuberant!”
- Max Lucado

21. What two things caused the Samaritans to believe in Jesus? 4:39,41

- What declaration did they make about Jesus? 4:42

22. What picture does John 4:40-41 give you about Jesus and His ministry? (Contrast 4:44; Mark 6:4,5) *Through this ministry with the Samaritans, what lessons about evangelism did Jesus teach the disciples?*

FYI: “[Jesus] knew her need and that of the other people of the region (John 4:18,39), and ‘must needs go through Samaria’ (John 4:4). In so doing, He was ‘leaving us an example, that (we) should follow His steps’ (I Peter 2:21), both of personal soul-winning and of rejecting ethnic prejudice.” - Henry Morris

Applying the Word: *How would you describe Jesus’ attitude toward one lost sinner? About social barriers?*

Day 3

The Woman Caught in Adultery. Read John 8:1-11

23. From John 8:2-6

- *Where and when did this event occur?* 8:2
- *Who was there?* 8:3
- *What happened?* 8:4
- *How would you describe the emotional atmosphere of this event?*

FYI: “This striking narrative from John 7:53–8:11 has been deleted from a few very ancient (but error-filled) Greek manuscripts. Accordingly, it has been deleted (or relegated to a footnote or special section) from most modern English translations. However...these twelve verses do appear in the overwhelming majority of extant Greek texts. There is no good reason not to retain it as is.” - Henry Morris

24. According to the law, who was to be judged? Leviticus 20:10 (Should and **could** they have brought the man too?)

25. Why did the scribes and Pharisees bring the woman to Jesus? 8:6a (See Luke 20:20)

FYI: "The **Pharisees** were a legalistic group who strictly, but often hypocritically, kept the law of Moses and the unwritten 'tradition of the elders'...According to Pharisaism, God's grace extended only to those who kept His law."
- NIV Study Bible (1445)

testing Him "They set a trap for Jesus. If Jesus says, 'Let her go,' then it seems that He breaks the Mosaic Law. If he says, 'Execute her for the crime of adultery,' then Jesus seems harsh and He breaks Roman law, because the Romans had taken away the right of Jews to officially execute people for religious offenses."
- David Guzik

26. How did Jesus respond? 8:6b Compare Exodus 31:18

- What do you think He may have been writing? Why do you think we aren't told?
- How do you think the woman was feeling at this point? (*How do you picture the men's faces? What defense did she have? To whom could she turn?*)

Food for Thought: "I like to imagine He wrote a name. After all, where was her adulterous partner? Only half of the 'criminals' were present. Or the writing could have been a countercharge against the scribes and Pharisees, namely their secret sins. The Greek word used in 8:6, *katagrapho*, literally means, 'to write against.'"
- Charles Swindoll (164)

"Whatever Jesus was writing was a subtle way of communicating to them that He Himself was the divine author of the law."
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (1240)

27. How did Jesus turn the tables and end up "testing" the scribes and Pharisees? 8:7 (Compare Matthew 7:1.2; Deuteronomy 17:7)

- Why do you think He wrote on the ground "again?" 8:8 What do you think He may have been writing this time?

28. From the men's reaction to Jesus' statement, what can you conclude? 8:9 (Why do you think they left in order from oldest to youngest?)

- How do you think the woman felt after the men left? What concern would she still have?

Food for Thought: "Perhaps the oldest left first because they most easily understood that Jesus was talking about them. Or, others think that Jesus was writing on the ground an account of their own sins, beginning from the oldest to the youngest, and this explains the order of their departure.

'Being convicted by their conscience: The embarrassment was no longer His, but theirs." - David Guzik

"It was the tradition that, in an execution by stoning, the oldest should cast the first stone, and so on. Thus, in this case, the eldest accuser was the first to be convicted...that he also had broken God's law and thus deserved to die. Only Jesus had the right, therefore, to stone her, but He also had the right to forgive her (Luke 5:23-24)."
- Henry Morris

29. What was Jesus' verdict and instruction to the woman? 8:11 (Compare 3:17) What does this story communicate about Jesus' attitude toward sin versus the sinner?

- Who can forgive sin? Mark 2:7,10

FYI: "Notice that Jesus demonstrated grace and mercy to the woman (removing her condemnation) before He told her to start living right. A true understanding of grace and mercy does not endorse or promote sin; rather, it's designed to produce gratitude and holiness (see Romans 6:1-7). We do not obey God in order to earn forgiveness. Rather, grace and mercy are to motivate our obedience." - The Tony Evans Study Bible (1240)

30. Underline the phrases that describe God's forgiveness.

- Psalm 103:10-12 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. NAS
- Isaiah 38:17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back. NIV
- Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. NAS
- Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. NIV
- Romans 4:6-8 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." NIV
- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. NAS
- Colossians 2:13b ...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, NIV

"I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

"If you have ever wondered how God reacts when you fail, frame these words and hang them on the wall. Read them. Ponder them. Drink from them. Stand below them and let them wash over your soul. Or better still, take him with you to your canyon of shame...Let him stand beside you as you retell the events of the darkest nights of your soul.

And then listen. Listen carefully. He's speaking. 'I don't judge you guilty.'

And watch. Watch carefully. He's writing. He's leaving a message. Not in the sand, but on a cross. Not with his hand, but with his blood." <https://maxlucado.com/finding-courage-to-overcome-the-past/>

Applying the Word: Do any of these verses on forgiveness personally speak to your heart? How should Christ's forgiveness affect the way you view your past? Your present? Your view of the future?

Day 4

The Woman with a Hemorrhage._Read Luke 8:40-48

(Also found in Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:24-34)

31. What two phrases describe the woman's condition? Luke 8:43

- What else do you learn from Mark 5:26

32. How isolated from family and friends (a husband and children?) would she have been because of her condition? Leviticus 15:19-27; 18:19

- How do you think this sickness, economic stress, and isolation affected her physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

FYI: "Being considered unclean according to Jewish law...she would not have been able to attend temple or synagogue; in this time and culture, that prohibition amounted to effectively being cut off from the religious community and teaching. ...She would have been considered on the "outside" of the social world— in other words, "socially dead.'...This woman would have been shunned from society to the point that even her family members would not have been allowed to touch her or comfort her physically without becoming ceremonially unclean and excluded from the community until they could be ritually cleansed." – Kristi McLelland (20)

33. What did the woman do and what happened? Luke 8:44 (See Mark 5:29)

- What courage do you see in her actions? Besides being a woman touching a rabbi (something expressly forbidden) what else would have made her hesitant?

34. From Matthew 9:32, what were her thoughts behind her actions? (What things would she have heard about Jesus? See Matthew 4:2)

35. From the Malachi 4:2 prophecy about the Messiah, what hope might have been behind her wanting to touch the *edge* of his garment?

FYI: (Malachi 4:2) **Wing** Strong's OT:3671 *kanaph*; an edge or extremity; specifically (of a bird or army) a wing, (of a garment or bed-clothing)
 "A common noun for a wing, the skirt or corner of a garment. It has the basic sense of to cover...God is often noted as providing a shadow of protection for his people under His wings." – The Complete Word Study Dictionary OT

(Luke 8:44) **Edge/border** Strong's NT:2899 *kraspedon*; a margin, i.e. (specifically) a fringe or tassel
 "In the Septuagint the word answers not only to the Hebrew word for border or extremity but also to the fringes which the Jews were commanded to wear on the borders of their garments (Numbers 15:38,39)."
 - The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT (884)

"The woman with the issue of blood reached for Jesus' healing...corner, edge, wing." – Kristi McLelland (21)

36. How did Jesus react to her touch? Luke 8:45a Why? Mark 5:30

- How did the people respond to His inquiry? 8:45b
- Why did the disciples say that it was impossible to know who touched Him? 8:45c (See also Mark 5:24,31)

FYI: "Everyone was touching Him! But the Son of God knows when someone's persistent faith has accessed his spiritual authority...Instead of uncleanness flowing to Jesus through her touch, healing flowed to her"
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (1193,1107)

37. From Mark 5:32, what did Jesus continue to do? Why do you think He was so determined to find her? (Do you see annoyance or excitement?)

38. Why did Jesus say about her touch? Luke 8:46 (Contrast Mark 6:5,6.)

39. What did the woman do and say? Luke 8:47 What reasons do you see for why Jesus put her in that situation and would not let her go unnoticed?

40. How did Jesus respond? Luke 8:48; Mark 5:34. (Compare the healing in Luke 18:40-42.)

- How do you think this made the woman feel? How do you think the people felt about her testimony? Why would you say that of all the people touching Jesus, her touch brought healing?

FYI: "In this moment, Jesus rewarded her faith, healed her, and **brought her back to life within her Jewish community**. He provided physical and spiritual healing. By reaching out to her, He helped usher her back into society and stuck up for her in the eyes of the world. In her cultural context, the idea of someone unclean touching a holy rabbi like Jesus would have been scandalous and risky. According to the tradition of the day, Jesus would have had every right to react harshly toward her and dismiss her, maybe even kill her. Pay close attention to Jesus' reaction here. He didn't condemn. He didn't dismiss. Instead, the Bible says Jesus turned to her, He saw her, and He said, "Take heart, daughter ... your faith has healed you."
- Kristi McLelland (21)

Applying the Word: When has reaching out to Jesus with a long time burden brought a healing touch to your life?
Close your eyes and picture Jesus **turning to see you** (Matt 9:20) and saying "**Take heart, daughter.**" What would He be speaking to you about? How comforting are those words?