



## The Samaritan Woman Met Jesus At A Well

# The Woman At The Well

The woman in today's story had a sad past. She had done some bad things. That's why she went to the well in the heat of the day. She wanted to avoid the other women who whispered about her. She went when no one else was at the well... Except that day someone was there.

Jesus was tired. He was on a long journey and was resting by the well when the woman arrived. When the woman started to draw water, He said, "Give me a drink." The command shocked the woman because Jews didn't associate with Samaritans. Jesus was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" "If you knew the gift of God," He said, "and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask Him and he would give you living water." His words confused her. "Sir, you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this living water? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you?"

Could she dare to hope that this man was truly different? Maybe He could give her something that would take away her emptiness and shame. If He was greater than Jacob, who had given them the well, maybe there really was hope for her. But then Jesus asked about her past. He asked the woman about her sin, revealing He knew EVERYTHING! How could he know? Was Jesus a prophet? She began to ask him questions about spiritual things.

"...An hour is coming," He said, "when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah is coming... When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Jews and Samaritans were both waiting for the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. To the woman's great surprise, Jesus replied, "I am He, the One speaking to you."

His words hung in the air, and the woman could feel her heart rise up. Her thoughts swirled! Was she really speaking to the Messiah? Is that how He knew everything about her? She had to go and get others! The woman went into the town and brought those she had avoided before to hear Jesus. Soon they, too, believed Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for!

That day, salvation came to those who believed and the Samaritan woman's past was forgiven. Jesus knew her, even before she spoke a word, and Jesus knows you, too. He knows everything you have ever done... the good and the bad, and He loves you anyway. You can also know God and worship Him with your whole heart just like the woman at the well!