



## **Encounter Christ, Extend the Kingdom**

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Sunday Services  
January 27, 2013**

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**John 4:3-30** He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. **4** And He had to pass through Samaria. **5** So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; **6** and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. **7** There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." **8** For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. **9** Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." **11** She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? **12** "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" **13** Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst

again; **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." **16** He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." **17** The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." **19** The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. **20** "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." **21** Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23**"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." **25** The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." **26** Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." **27** At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" **28** So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city and said to the men, **29** "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" **30** They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

- Samaritans were a people who had been, in part, brought in from other parts of the world by the Assyrians when they conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. These people mixed with the remnant of Israelites who had not been taken away and they had developed their own religion after the Northern Kingdom separated from Judah & the Southern Kingdom.
- This area was an amalgam of peoples who did not really adhere to any one faith; they were a mixture.
- The Samaritans were regarded by the Jews who lived to the south as being a degraded people – beneath them in every way. The Samaritans had a similar regard for the Jews. Nothing could be received from the Samaritans as they were regarded as unclean.
- The Samaritans didn't even host Jesus on one occasion because Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem, a city they despised. James & John asked Jesus if they could call down fire on these folks.
- Jesus had cause not to like the Samaritans and could have been offended by them, but He loved them. He desired to reach out to them since He

was always going thru their land.

- This is how the Kingdom of God is extended – by discerning how to reach out to the people that are in your path. “How can they be reached?” is a question that Jesus was asking, that we need to ask.

### **I. Jesus Waits At Wells; vs. 5-6**

- a. Jesus, passing thru Samaria, sat by a well for refreshment here at Jacob’s well who had lived 1900 years before Jesus’ time.
- b. We need to dig natural wells – dug temporally. We need to dig wells in our marriage that our grandchildren will draw from; such is a heritage that generations can drink from. We need to build a relationship that sets a tone, sets a standard for generations to come.
- c. We need to dig wells as a church that can be drawn from in centuries to come; a church for generations to come. Church happens on more days than Sunday; what the church is about goes thru the week and thru the lives of those who make it up.
- d. We need to dig financial wells – provision that provides for generations to come.
- e. We need to be responsible in the temporal realm to provide.
- f. We need draw from eternal wells that only God can provide. Only Jesus can fill you with the water you need to live by; we need to press into our relationship with Christ so that we find more than the natural water we draw from the wells of our own labor & provision.
- g. There are wells we are drawing from that provide opportunities to reach out to and interact with a view to drawing them to the water of Christ. We need to intersect with the people we meet & interact with.

### **II. A Woman Thirsty; vss. 7-18**

- a. Jesus broke the dividing walls by reaching out to a Samaritan and to a woman. He reached past what was expected to reach her with the truth and God’s love.
- b. To understand what’s going on requires seeing this interaction thru the Samaritan woman’s eyes.
- c. Possible that Jesus response was initially interpreted as a “come

on” by Jesus. She responds by attempting to connect with him on his terms, thinking that his metaphor was a “come on”.

- d. He uses thirst to draw her in. She thought He was attempting to draw her in, until He told her about her life.

### **III. She Waxes Religious; vss. 19-24**

- a. At the point He turned the conversation on her, she tried to change the focus.
- b. Jesus was trying to do more than change her behavior; He tried to get her heart and the heart of Samaritans. Jesus worked to get his words down into her heart – He did so with intelligence and care.
- c. Jesus answered her questions with answers that would open up possibilities of God’s love for her; that God is seeking those who will worship Him. Jesus showed that He knew her well and yet accepted her. For God to reveal himself to you, we each must submit ourselves.
- d. A hunger was triggered in her heart by the responses Jesus gave her. She was asking questions about her own life and at that point she Jesus revealed who He was and she was so excited that she left her water pot (and the water she came to get) to go tell what she had been told.
- e. She went and testified to the town and did so in such a way that entire village came out to Jesus. Jesus cared about ONE person, and the entire city came out! This is how we extend the Kingdom – by our reaching one person.
- f. Unless you receive something from Christ you will not have your eyes opened and you will not be able to testify, to witness to what you’ve been impacted by.

### **IV. She Wins Her Friends; vss. 25-30**

- a. Jesus opened up her heart by his kindness, care & insightful communication
- b. There are so many people in our lives that are like this “woman at the well”... These are opportunities (at the Community Center, at the office, wherever you are) are intersections with people.
- c. When you begin to ask questions of people, you ask them about

their lives and then they begin to bring people, where are we going to put them?

- i. We need to work BOTH a “come & see” approach to reaching out whereby people are brought.
- ii. But we need to each be engaged in reaching out to people and proclaiming the gospel ourselves. Jesus began a dialogue and it brought a community. Dialogue allows people’s hearts to open up.