

Jesus and the Samaritan woman

John 4:1–42

The well at Sychar, in the land of Samaria, was hundreds of years old. Over the years, many people had come to get water and rest beside the well.

Jesus and his disciples were passing through Samaria, and in the middle of the day they came to the well. Jesus was tired and sat down to rest. The disciples went into the village to buy food.

As Jesus rested, a Samaritan woman came to fill her water jar. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” The woman was surprised and said, “You’re asking me, a woman of Samaria, for a drink?” She and Jesus both knew that Jews did not share things with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, “Do you know about God’s gifts? Do you know who is asking you for water? If you had known, you would have asked me for living water, and I would have given it to you.”

“Sir, you have no bucket,” the woman said. “Where would you get this living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well?”

“Everyone who drinks from this well will be thirsty again,” Jesus told her. “But people who drink the water that I give will never be thirsty. That water will become a spring inside them, gushing up into new life forever.”

The woman said, “Sir, give me this water.”

Jesus said, “Go, call your husband and come back.” The woman answered, “I have no husband.”

“You are right,” said Jesus. “You have had five husbands, and the man you are with now is not your husband.”

The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her. She sat by the well with Jesus and they talked about God. The woman said, “I know that the Messiah, our Savior, is coming.”

Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman left her jar by the well and ran back to the city to tell others about Jesus. Everyone she told wanted to meet him too. Jesus stayed in Samaria for two days. During that time, many Samaritans came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.