

Jesus meets a woman with a bad reputation:

3Jesus left Judea and started for Galilee again. **4**This time he had to go through Samaria, **5**and on his way he came to the town of Sychar. It was near the field that Jacob had long ago given to his son Joseph.

6-8The well that Jacob had dug was still there, and Jesus sat down beside it because he was tired from travelling. It was noon, and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy some food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well.

Jesus asked her, "Would you please give me a drink of water?"

9"You are a Jew," she replied, "and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do with each other?"

10Jesus answered, "You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask me for the water that gives life."

11"Sir," the woman said, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water? **12**Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us, and his family and animals got water from it. Are you greater than Jacob?"

13Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. **14**But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life."

15The woman replied, "Sir, please give me a drink of that water! Then I won't get thirsty and have to come to this well again."

16Jesus told her, "Go and bring your husband."

17-18The woman answered, "I don't have a husband."

"That's right," Jesus replied, "you're telling the truth. You don't have a husband. You have already been married five times, and the man you are now living with isn't your husband."

19The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. **20**My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship." **21**Jesus said to her:

Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. **22**You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world.

23But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. **24**God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.

25The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26"I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now."

27The disciples returned about this time and were surprised to find Jesus talking with a woman. But none of them asked him what he wanted or why he was talking with her.

28The woman left her water jar and ran back into town. She said to the people, **29**"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Could he be the Messiah?" **30**Everyone in town went out to see Jesus.

(John 4:3-29)