

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OCT 4, 2020 // THERE WAS JESUS



## THERE WAS JESUS

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs began a new series, *There Was Jesus*. This week's message was from a favorite passage in John 4, commonly referred to as, "The Woman at the Well." This passage is a favorite story because it really is our story—whether we're looking for him or not, Jesus shows up. He shows up in the most unlikely places, and delivers the most unexpected message of undeserved forgiveness and grace. This is the message of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, the Christ—when you least expect him, but need him most ... there is Jesus.

### SCRIPTURE: JOHN 4:1, 3-34, 39-42

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John So he left Judea and returned to Galilee ... He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while

we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?”

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.”

“Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other.

Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out from the message today as Marty spoke about Jesus meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well?
2. Read John 4 (edited version above), how would you describe the way Jesus approached the Samaritan woman?
3. What did Jesus offer the woman at the well?
4. Jesus mentions both a different kind of drink and a different kind of food; how did he describe each one, and what does this mean to you?
5. How did the woman respond to her encounter with Jesus?
6. Will you describe times in your life where you didn't even know you needed him, and yet, there was Jesus? Maybe you didn't recognize him until later, but how did this encounter change your direction? Your mind? Your heart? Your life?
7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Begin by thanking God for this story that beautifully demonstrates that he is a forgiving God, not a God that leaves us in a pit of shame. Thank him for the grace you have received, and are receiving daily. Ask him to fill you with living water and nourish you as you fulfill his kingdom work. Pray for those who need to encounter Jesus, and ask God to take you to them, so that you can deliver his message of mercy and grace.