

## Talking Points     *“Attention is the beginning of devotion”* -- Mary Oliver

**John 14:**<sup>10</sup> “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.”

What did Jesus reveal of God’s nature in the session of the widow? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus reveal of God’s nature in the session of the shamed woman? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus reveal of God’s nature in the session with the Gentile woman? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus Sees Women – Session 4 “The Woman at the Well”**

**Samaria:** Some history (Show Map, Relevant Scripture Handout)

Samaritans believed they were true Jews, sacrificed in their own temple on Mount Gerizim in Samaria. They believed the Judeans were fake Jews. The Judeans believed they were true Jews, sacrificed in their own temple on the Mount of Olives. They believed the Samaritans were fake Jews. The Judeans also believed the Samaritan scriptures and Torah were fake. Two different temples, offering sacrifices year round, on two different mountains. From our study notes:

“Those mutual accusations of fakeness being thrown about by both sides were very serious. They prepared the way for violence, and that is exactly what happened in 113 BCE under the Judean ruler John Hyrcanus. He led an army to destroy the Samaritan temple and to devastate the surrounding lands.

“So when the Samaritan woman says to Jesus, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (v. 9), she is questioning much more than just the sharing of dishes. Jews and Samaritans do not share Scriptures, worship places, ethnic origins, languages, and even God. The only thing shared between them was a history of suffering and bloodshed.” Jesus Sees Women, Session 4, p.2

Thoughts/Opinions?

Can you think of peoples or nations who are bound by centuries old mistrust and hatred?

**Unpacking John’s Gospel:** John’s Gospel is written in order to tell us about Jesus and the Kingdom of God, using symbolism and Middle Eastern writing structure to give insight. It is not written as a linear timeline of Jesus’ ministry. So our big question is: “Why is this story of this encounter in John’s Gospel?” It is not in the other three Gospels. What point is John making with it?

Our conversation today takes place on different planes (systems, economies) ... at the same time ...and it is confusing. Keep these in mind as we read. Try to determine which system is ‘talking’ in the conversation.

1. Divine, God’s system, the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven:  
Revealed as Giving, Forgiving, Releasing, Loving (abundance mentality)
2. Human, Mankind’s system, Kingdoms of the Earth:  
Revealed as Getting, Buying, Trading and Selling (scarcity mentality)
3. Demonic, Evil’s system, Kingdom of Hell, or the Underworld:  
Revealed as Taking, Debt, Sacrifice, Destroying (death mentality)

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### Setting the stage:

**John 4:**<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus<sup>Ⓜ</sup> learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John”<sup>2</sup> —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—<sup>3</sup> he left Judea and started back to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

### The conversation begins:

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>Ⓜ</sup><sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

From which “system” is Jesus speaking? From which “system” is the woman speaking?

### The conversation turns on a dime:

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you<sup>Ⓜ</sup> say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the one who is speaking to you.”

1. Instead of being offended, she answers... v.19
2. She brings up the “5 Husbands of Samaria,” and the enmity between Samaria and Judea. v.20
3. Jesus explains, no mountain, no temple, will be the only place for worship. Only the worship of the Spirit will be true worship.
4. She realizes this information must be about the Messiah.
5. In the entire Gospel of John, this woman is the only person to whom Jesus admits he is the Messiah.

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<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,<sup>[e]</sup> can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

\*\*\*vs. 31-38\*\*\*

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Back to our first question: “Why did John put this story into his Gospel?”

1. First woman evangelist?
2. Neither mountain, nor temple, nor sacrifice, but the indwelling Spirit?
3. Thoughts?