

John 4—The Woman at the Well

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Did the “woman at the well” ever meet a man like this man?

Notice her progressive recognition of Jesus

V.9 – “Jew”

V.11 – “Sir (also 15,19)

V.19 – “Prophet”

V.29 – “Christ”

The dialog

J – give me a drink

W – no dealings

J – gift of God, Living water

Jesus communicates in a way designed to encourage proper questions and

responses

W – deep well, Jacob

J – Well of water within you is available to you (transposition)

John 7:38-39

W – How can this improve my life (meet her needs)

J – Husband (Jesus gentle probing, discernment, counseling)

Focus on *her* need, she may have forgotten *his* need of water

W – defensive

J – Her embarrassing history

Jesus’ counseling becomes directive

W – Us and you

J – teaching –it is the person (God) not the place (Jerusalem/Samaria)

W – Her level of understanding – she has some knowledge

J – “I am”

v. 27 Jesus’ character above reproach

v. 28-29 Leaves her water pot, carries the gospel

“The men” and “A Man”

What kind of woman was she?

A woman with the normal desire for love

How was she dressed?

How did she conduct herself?

How do women like this see themselves? (self perception - Romans 12:3)

1. As worthless and so continue to allow themselves to be abused or being promiscuous and feel this is normal

2. As dirty and so attempt to live in extreme neatness and make themselves appear to be clean and in control
3. As wounded and so create walls of defense to keep everyone away
4. As healed/healing and accept real love from a strong man who treats them with dignity and respect

Can women be feminine without men reacting inappropriately?

1. Men often misread femininity as an invitation to improper behavior
2. Men need to accept femininity as a God-given beauty not as a weakness to be exploited

Must women always be on the defensive?

1. Weakness and irresponsibility in men creates defensiveness in women
2. Strength and responsibility in men creates trust in women

What does defensiveness do to women/girls?

1. defensiveness means that they have taken control
2. defensiveness weakens their trust in men
3. defensiveness means that they have taken over the “mother” role

How does this reaction influence future relationships?

Notes to men

Be available but do not be pushy

Take a risk but do not be risqué

Find the need but do not violate privacy

Set the agenda but do not be a control freak

Provide the answer but do not be arrogant

Jesus set aside his material need (water) to meet her eternal need (living water)

Men whose hearts and lives are healed and clean are *free* to help without demands

Men whose hearts and lives are healed and clean are *safe* and can be trusted

Men whose hearts and lives are healed and clean are *secure* and can look past the body and see the real person and the real needs

Men who are healed are God’s channel of blessing and direction in this world

Men who are healed carry God's message to their world every day

Proper relationships open the way to presenting the most important relationship

A “real man” can see past externals into the beauty of a woman's heart

A “real man” can see past the emotional vulnerability (and his own selfish interests) to meet the need of a feminine heart.

Water was her life-sustaining need

Living water – no more need to “dig wells”

Jesus was there to meet her real need