

The Woman of Samaria - John 4 Transcendent Series

Intro: In his book He still moves stones – Max Lucado tells the sad true story about a woman named Rebecca Thompson

A) Rebecca fell twice from the Fremont Canyon Bridge – She died both times / **1ST FALL broke heart / 2nd BROKE HER neck**

B) **The first fall occurred when she was 18 yrs old** / She was abducted along w/ 11 year old sister Amy {Taken from Casper Wy.}

- 1) Drove to this Bridge – Where – Rebecca was beaten & Raped / somehow convinced them to not do the same to Amy

C) **Both Rebecca & Amy were thrown over the Bridge / Amy died at impact – when her body hit a Rock**

- 1) Rebecca's body hit a ledge & fell into deep water/ but she survived

D) **Beaten/ bruised/ hip out of place - She hid between two big rocks & waited for THE DAWN**

Well the Sun came up / she was found / Physicians treated her wounds / her attackers were caught & imprisoned

A) **Life continued but the DAWN never came**

B) **See she was never really able to climb up out of that canyon**

C) **So in Sept. of 1992 – 19yrs later – Rebecca drove back to that Bridge w/ her boyfriend & two yr old baby Daughter**

- 1) Kissed her daughter – asked Boyfriend to put her in the Car & **that is when She Jumped** – boyfriend startled when heard body hit water

D) That is when Rebecca Thompson died her 2nd Death

It's Sad that her life was so shattered and Paralyzed by that horrible day that she couldn't move on

A) Well the woman in John. Ch.4 is similar to Rebecca –

B) She is a woman that had been beat up by life / hurt / heartbroken & rejected

C) You could say of this woman in John 4 - **she was looking for love in all the wrong places –**

1) that left her heartbroken & empty

D) But that all changed for her the day she met a stranger at a well outside of her city.

The Setting: Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.

Jesus has been in the area of Southern Israel – Judea – Jerusalem – the religious center of the nation.

A) There is a growing animosity amongst the religious leaders over Jesus

B) Jesus knowing that it was not his time – to be betrayed – left Judea and headed back toward Galilee

The word here translated "left" is a singularly strong word, not occurring anywhere else. It marks a definite and intentional break.- Morgan

C) You could say he made a break with Judea at this time.

V.4 John draws attention to the route Jesus chose on his journey to Galilee - ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria

A) Odd statement – Jews avoided Samaria

B) **The Land of Israel was divided into 3 regions –**
1) Judea in the South / Samaria in the middle – Galilee further North. MAP

C) **The Areas of Judea and Galilee were populated by Jews – but the part in the middle – Samaria – belonged to the Samaritans.**

1) There was a long standing feud between the Jews and the Samaritans. 400yr old feud

After the fall of the Northern Kingdom – to the Assyrians 720 BC

A)The Assyrians infiltrated the land and intermarried with the Jews there.

B)When the Assyrians came they brought with them their pagan religions and practices –

1) What developed for a while there was a religious system that was part Judaism / part Paganism.

C)Over time the residents of Samaria returned to the worship of Yahweh alone – **but in their own Manner**

1)They only accepted the Pentateuch or the first 5 books of the OT as inspired scripture –

2)The rest of the OT they ignored. = **created tension**

When the Jews returned from exile during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah –

A)The Samaritans offered to help in the construction – but were denied by the Jews – **MORE TENSION**

B)They didn't worship in Jerusalem – but instead built their own temple at MT Gerizim. {**Added to the tension.**

C)Their temple was later destroyed by the Jews – **MORE TENSION – HATRED**

D)So there was a growing animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans –

E)MAP Jewish person traveling From Judea to Galilee – longer route along the coast line – of Med sea – to avoid Samaria – LIKE PLAGUE

The Jews regarded the Samaritans as biological and religious half breeds.

A)So for Jesus to say that HE NEEDED to go through Samaria would in the minds of the Disciples seem like a really odd thing!

B)So the question then is why did he need to go there?

1)DIVINE APPOINTMENT - A broken woman in need of saving

C)**Jesus seeks sinners who aren't even seeking Him!**

⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there.

Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. V. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

So the Disciples head out looking for a place to buy some lunch – Jesus hangs back alone at this well.

A)It was about **the SIXTH HOUR** - That would have made it about noon – the hottest part of the day.

B)The well is deserted – because no one comes to the well at the hottest part of the day. { Desert region - Palm Desert at noon -

1)The women would normally come at Dawn or at Dusk to draw their water to avoid the heat

C)So the question is why is this woman coming at this time?

1)Obvious answer is because of her shame!

She is the town floozy – Probably got tired of the stares and the whispers of the other women.

A)V.17-18 of our text we read – This woman has had five husbands and perhaps a slew of kids each resembling different dude.

B)Five Husbands/ now she is just shacking up with guy number 6!

1)Perhaps thinking like many do today – if there is no commitment maybe hurt less if it doesn't work out

C)She comes bearing an empty water pot, a telling symbol of her parched, barren heart.

Jesus initiates the conversation

A)Give Drink- He opened the conversation with a request on the human level, the level of His own human necessity

B)This is amazing: The one who spoke forth the Niagara into existence

C)The one who shaped the Nile with his finger nail in the sand.

1) The one who could easily bring forth gallons of wine – now sits thirsty.

D)He asked her for a drink - His way of breaking the ice – neutral ground.

E)He knew her. He knew all about her. He knew her past history; He knew her present life;

1)Nevertheless He began by asking her to do Him a favor

PONDER THAT FOR A MINUTE

⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

She is surprised: He is a Jew / she Samaritan & Also She is a Woman /

A)Men didn’t speaks to women in Public – especially the religious leaders

B)In the eyes of most Jews, including the disciples at this point, this woman was not worthy of Jesus’ time.

1)Just being a *Samaritan* excluded her. Being a *woman* was strike two.

2) But being an *immoral* Samaritan woman STRIKE 3

C)Jesus is Breaking all Barriers here

“Jesus is deliberately reaching across almost every significant barrier that people can put up between themselves. In this case, a racial barrier, a cultural barrier, a gender barrier, and a moral barrier- and every convention of the time- that he, a religious Jewish male, should have nothing whatsoever to do with her. But He doesn’t care.” Timothy Keller

D)This woman has known six men in her life who have all taken from her – used her and abused her – discarded her

1)Then she meets Jesus – who wants to bless her and give to her.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, **“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”**

A)At this point Jesus steers the conversation in a spiritual direction as he mentions to her **-LIVING WATER!**”

B)NOTICE he refers to this water as the gift of God

C)The Living water that Jesus gives is a gift, it is not something that you earn or must qualify for!

¹¹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Confused

¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

V.13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

Will thirst again –

A)That is true of every well that people try to drink from today!

B)Love, success, wealth, fame are but a few of the countless Wells that people try to drink from today!

C)Imagine a handful of stickers that read “will thirst again!” & placing them everywhere you went – on everything temporal

1)On the TV set; on bars & pubs; on bottles of alcohol; on a joint; on a prostitute; on the desk of the business exec who made it to the top...

2)Sticker: YOU WILL THIRST AGAIN!

“One who drinks from the wells of the world will thirst again, for sinful pleasures never satisfy.

“Love, success, wealth, fame - these were but a few of the countless springs at which men had stooped to drink, only to rise from them to find that they offered no lasting inward satisfaction, no enduring personal fulfillment.” (Zane Hodges)

D)Jesus reveals man’s need! He is unsatisfied.

THEN HE SAYS

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

A)Now this is an interesting statement that Jesus makes that has caused many believers – some confusion

B)They say: Jesus said: whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst

I definitely felt a quenching of my thirst when I gave my heart to Jesus –

C)HOWEVER – I can't say that I have not thirsted again.

1)I still experience that spiritual thirst – in my soul all the time.

That sentiment is a misunderstanding of what Jesus is saying!

A)Jesus is describing a Perpetual flow of Spiritual refreshment - **But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."**

B)Difference between someone giving you a bottle of Powerade and a lifeline to a water tank –

1)always with you – always available

C)Jesus is saying the person who turns to me – there is a supply of me in his heart/ life – always available to fill the void

D)Daily hour by hour drink of him!

1)More of Jesus is what I am really thirsting for!

This woman – doesn't know exactly what he is talking about yet but she likes how it sounds – says to him "15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

A)She is no doubt thinking convenience – (I won't have to lug this pot out here in the hot sun anymore.

B)Definitely thinking convenience but even more thinking about her shame –

1)avoid the stares and whispers

C)Why do I say that? Because that is exactly what Jesus addresses in the next dialogue –

1)he brings her Shame front and center

D)Jesus is good at that – Withered hand – step forward – brought his need front and center ‘

1)Last week Nicodemus – brought his religious ignorance front and center – **you the teacher.... Know these things**

E)Here with this woman – He brings her shame – front and center!¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

Why does Jesus do that?

A)Listen in order for him to really work in our hearts he has to bring – the root issue – front/ center

B)The thing that is holding us back – the thing that keeps us distracted or making excuses why we really can't walk with God

C)The Holy Spirit brings that front and center in our lives –

1)Perhaps that is happening right now in your heart! A conviction – Never get right until you come clean

D)Never have thirst quenched by me until you let go of that!

In effect Jesus is saying to her, I hear the cry of your soul for this water.

A)I have this water to give, but there is something in your life that has first, to be set right first -"**Go, call your husband."**

B)Her response ¹⁷**The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."** Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

C)Her next response is really interesting ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Let's talk worship: Now for years I have always looked at her as being evasive here

A)Changing the subject – let's talk about something else – let's get distracted from the real issue.

B)Because I think that is what a lot of us do – when Jesus is dealing with our garbage –

1)we avoid – distract ourselves – allow our Hearts to get caught up in something else

C)But I don't think that is what this woman is doing here – Not being evasive but she is seeking

D)I agree whole heartedly with the insight from pastor Ray Stedman

This is an honest plea for help. "Where do I go to get life?" is what she is saying. "You Jews say that the only place to offer the sacrifice that can cleanse my sin is in the temple in Jerusalem. Our people say it is here on this mountain. **Where do I go? How can I find God? "** – Ray Stedman

Jesus' response fits beautifully with that idea

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jesus insight on TRUE worship

A)Not the Location of worship but the Object of worship.

B)Not Where you worship but How you worship.

1)Not just How you worship but ultimately Who you worship!

Message But the time is coming - it has, in fact, come - when **what you're called** will not matter and **where you go to worship** will not matter. "It's **who you are** and **the way you live** that count before God. Your worship must **engage your spirit** in the pursuit of **truth**. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are **simply** and **honestly** themselves before Him in their worship.

Sincere & Spiritual Worship = the submission of all our nature to God; It's the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose. William Temple

C)True Worship – Spirit and in truth! – Sincerity and Biblically

1)All our heart, soul, mind and strength -

D)God is seeking such to worship Him!

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

The first person He openly tells that He is the MESSIAH- This Samaritan woman!

A)I Love that! – The worst of the worst

B)Jesus loves sinners – Jesus is the ultimate rescuer

C)Rescues you of your Shame – pain – today if you let him.

1)He will be a perpetual flow of life to your soul – come to Him today!

Wrap this up – Practical Application

²⁷ And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" ²⁸ **The woman then left her waterpot,** (What she came there for in the first place no longer mattered once she met Jesus) **The woman then left her waterpot** went her way into the city, and said to the men, ²⁹ "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰ Then they went out of the city and came to Him. (She becomes an evangelist)

What can we learn from Jesus about taking the love of God to those who are hurting?

A)We must be open and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit

B)He needed to go – spirit's leading – Divine appt.

C)If we are in tune to the Holy Spirit in our lives

1)Wednesday night – Being present

D)Involving the Lord throughout my day – I will be more in tune to his leading

E)This week – You sense – Holy Spirit saying – go here – do it and be ready

What can we learn from Jesus about taking the love of God to those who are hurting?

A)#1 We must be open and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit

B)#2 We need to see a person's value as a way of engaging them

C)Here is what I mean by that – I think we as believers are notorious for thinking –

1)we only have something to give

D)We approach evangelism in that way – you are empty and I have what will fill you up.

1)True

But that mentality often keeps us from seeing the value of a person made in the image of God.

A)When we recognize a person's value – they have something to offer to the world –

B)More receptive to hear our message.

C)Jesus asked her for a drink!

D)Ask a neighbor for help – might engage them – draw them in – get to know them

Jesus knew everything about this woman because he was God. – He knew her pain – and her shame

A)We can learn those same things by simple engaging someone in conversation

B)Spending time with them

C)But that brings us to #3 – We will only do that if we are really willing to engage in their pain.

D)That is how we really reach someone with the Love of Jesus

Notice this last part of the story

³¹In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”³³ Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work

My food is to do the will of him who sent me!

A)Our Physical and spiritual hunger is quenched when We are being & doing – God called us to be/do

B)Satisfying in Serving God

³³Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for

harvest! ³⁶And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

³⁹And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified

He told me all that I *ever* did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of His own word.

⁴²Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

Will you believe today!