



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL AND THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN

Michelle Ruschman



The Woman at the Well

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

This isn't where our encounter with the woman at the well begins but I had to interject a comment here.

This so speaks to what we can do together under the guidance of Jesus. With Him, and together, we can serve so many more people and give them new hope. That's what we're doing here. I know you're going through this work on your own but know that you have been prayed for. Whether you joined us live or watched the recordings after, I pray for a healing, a fresh revelation, supernatural peace, and the knowledge of how *amazing* you are.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria.

This was not typical for a Jewish traveler during this time. It would take longer, but they would normally travel around the region of Samaria on the east side of Jordan, because the Samaritans were hated so much. The Greek tense used in this scripture gives the impression that Jesus was under compulsion to through Samaria instead of around it. Jesus was prompted by a compulsion from God.

5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

For a Jew to take a drink from a vessel given by a Samaritan would make them ceremonially unclean. For that matter, anything the Samaritan touched would make it unclean.

Have you ever thought that something about you was too unclean to be offered to Jesus?

⁹ *The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])*

I can imagine that it startled her for Jesus to speak to her at all, much less ask her for a drink of water. She couldn't believe that, based on her identity, that Jesus would ask her for anything.

What identity do you hold onto that doesn't make you feel good enough? Share about it here...

Did this identity originate from you or from someone else? Tell us more...

Note that He asked her and didn't make any demands. **A gentleman asks for permission.**

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

I so love this passage. Jesus doesn't care about the identity she thinks she must carry. His concern is for her to know who He is. He wants her to know that He is open to her asking something of Him that will elevate her, a place she already holds in His eyes. He came to the well already knowing what she is, and He wants her to know whose she is.

What is it that you want to ask of Jesus? Ask boldly here...

If you haven't asked, what's keeping you from asking?

A gentleman respects a woman for being a woman, regardless of how she sees herself or how others may see her. He desires to add value to her, and his goal is for her to feel valued.

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

She was so used to knowing the sensation of thirst, this was a revelation. She could drink of Jesus’ water and never be thirsty again? Jesus, of course, was speaking of her Spirit, and not her physical body but He starts with a familiar touch point.

When she realizes Jesus has something she wants, she demands from Him what he just asked of her. Sometimes desperation will do that. Jesus wasn’t concerned about her words. He was focused on her need.

Consider a time you felt so parched, so thirsty. What was it like to have it have that thirst quenched by your first sip of cool, refreshing water?

How do you speak to Jesus? Do you ever feel you've spoken to him inappropriately or without the proper reverence? Share about it...

Beloved, know that it's more important to Jesus you're talking to Him at all. It's never about the words, but the heart that speaks them.

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

This scripture reminds me of our sister, the bleeding woman. Jesus already knows she has no husband but, in this moment, it feels like a confession. In speaking it, she begins to take part in her own healing.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

Jesus spoke truth but He didn't accuse her or condemn her. What she thought would be hidden from Him, He brought into the light day so she could so see that nothing was hidden from Him. When you know your burdens are safe with Jesus, they are much easier to bear, because He carries them out of the darkness for you.

What do you need Jesus to carry for you?

**A gentleman would never expect you to
shoulder your burdens alone.**

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” John 4:11-26

I love that this sister at the well is already seeing the Messiah as a teacher. She is anticipating that Messiah will come with clarity and that she is already so willing to accept it as the standard of truth.

Jesus the Messiah has come to you, beckoning you to come with all that you have and all that you are, spoken and unspoken.

As Someone who already sees your worth, what is the truth is He speaking over you now?

**Know that You are loved, wherever you are, whomever
you've been ... you are loved.**

The Adulterous Woman

8 ¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

Okay. This always gets me because, listen, this gal didn't commit adultery on her own and yet here she is, standing in front of her accusers, alone. During Jesus' time, it was the law, but Jesus has wisdom that honors the law but sheds a light on the area it needs to be improved.

Today, accusers can come in lots of forms - co-workers, family, friends – and it can be a very lonely spot to be in, especially if it's done publicly.

What is an instance you had to face accusers? How did it make you feel?

⁵ In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

Sometimes what we've done is used as bait for others to *not* follow Jesus. "How could she call herself a Christian if she's been/done _____." If you're like me, you may have become a Jesus follower much later in life, which means there could be a lot of years you're not proud of. I understand what that feels like all too well.

When I first started telling people about this new fire that was in my heart, I'm sure many people who'd known me were incredulous. Surely, this rebel, this girl with a past, couldn't have such a transformation! It wouldn't surprise me to know people to this day are still wondering "if it's going to stick." I used to worry about it but *I know* what's been done and who did it for me.

What's been done for you?

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

Oh, man. Don't you just want to know what He wrote? Many think He started to write what others had done or he'd written the names of who they'd done these activities with. Either way, Jesus had knowledge of everyone there. Even with this knowledge, Jesus wasn't there to embarrass anyone, but He had a point to make among the accusers and the spectators.

What do you think Jesus was trying to convey in this scripture?

What does Jesus want to speak to you today through this scripture?

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

The older you get, the more opportunity there is to commit sin, but there is also time to gain greater wisdom. I think this first wave of departure had both.

What wisdom have you gained as you've gotten older?

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 8: 1-11

Jesus, the only one who has never sinned, was left to stand with the accused. He could have thrown stones until she perished. And He didn't.

Sin can be a tough word for un/non-believers to handle. It can sound harsh and very “religious-y.” It makes us feel condemned, as the accusers wanted this woman to feel. Sin can be hard to face when it shines a light on what we've done or who we've been. The older I get, however, the more I find it to be a very unifying word. When you realize we all have struggles there is a real opportunity to breed compassion, and Jesus is the ultimate model for compassion.

As Jesus tells this woman to go, He lets her realize He knows she's done what she was accused of ... and is going to release her anyway. He also tells her what she needs to do so she doesn't risk being accused again.

Jesus, with the authority of God, could have brought accusation to all who were in front of Him on that day but He also knew, that with the eternal love of God, that in a short time, He would take the punishment for all of them.

Yes, sisters, **we can be safe with Jesus.**