



Church of God Sunday School

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-42



One day Jesus and His disciples decided to leave the land of Judea (*joo-DEE-uh*) and travel again to Galilee. Between Judea and Galilee was the small country of Samaria (*suh-MAIR-ee-uh*).

The Jews and the Samaritans did not like each other and would have nothing to do with each other. The Jews felt that the Samaritans were not as morally good as themselves—and the Samaritans felt the same way about the Jews. While traveling between Judea and Galilee, the Jews would take the longer road to avoid passing through Samaria. The Samaritans and the Jews usually tried to avoid each other if they possibly could.

They were like some people today who do not like others who are not the same as they are socially, physically, racially, or morally. Does God want us to be that way? No!

Jesus felt that He "must needs go through Samaria." In other words, there was a reason that Jesus, a Jew, wanted to go to Samaria. Jesus wanted the Samaritans to hear of the Kingdom of God. The Samaritans were despised by the Jews, but Jesus loved them.

In Samaria there was a city called Sychar (*SI-kahr*). Jacob's well was there. Jesus and His disciples came to Sychar around noontime. Jesus was weary from traveling, so He sat down on the edge of the well to rest. His disciples went into the city to buy something to eat.

While Jesus sat on the well, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw some water. Jesus asked her to give Him a drink. The woman was really surprised that Jesus would even talk to her. She asked Him why He, being a Jew, would ask her, a Samaritan, for a drink of water. (Possibly she knew Jesus was a Jew by His clothes or by His accent.)



Jesus told her if she knew who was asking her for a drink, she would ask Him for a drink because Jesus could give her living water.

The Samaritan woman wondered how Jesus could draw water from the well without a water jug, for the well was very deep. She did not understand that He was not speaking of the water that was in Jacob's well. Jesus told her that those who drank from the water in Jacob's well would be thirsty again. But the water that Jesus had to give would be "a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Then the woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw." She still did not understand.

When Jesus told her to call her husband and return, the woman said, "I have no husband." Jesus told her that she had spoken the truth, for she had had five husbands, and the man that she was then living with was not her husband. The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her!

The woman said, "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." She then went on to ask Jesus if people should worship God "in this mountain" or in Jerusalem.

Jesus said to her: "The hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. . . . the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

She told Jesus she knew that when the Messiah came, He would tell them all things. After she said that, Jesus looked at her and said, "I that speak unto thee am he."

Right then, Jesus' disciples came back and saw Him talking to the woman. They might have wondered why Jesus was talking to this woman, but none of them asked Jesus why He was talking to her or tried to stop Him from doing so.

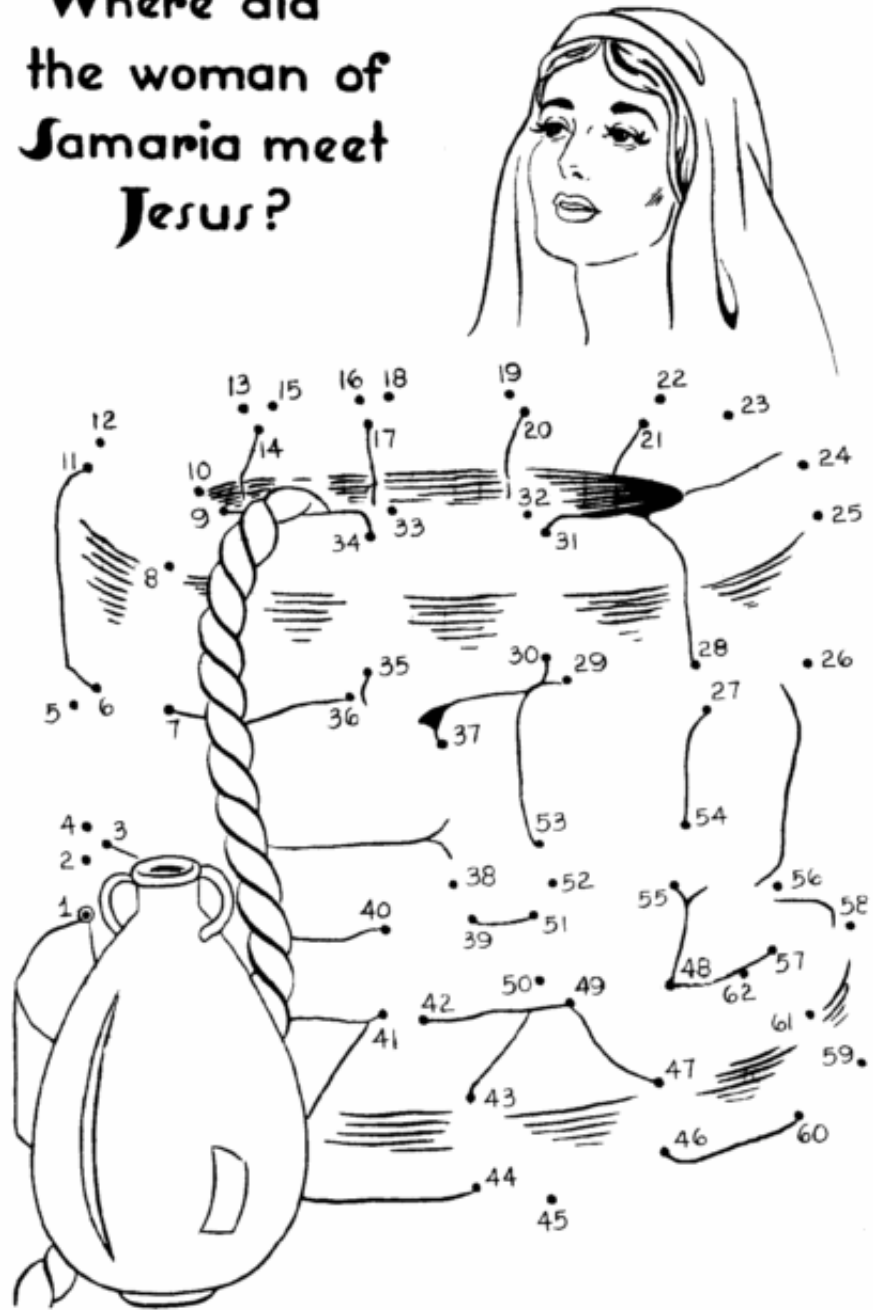
The woman was so excited over what Jesus had said that she hurried away, leaving her water-pot at the well! She forgot what she had come to the well for. She went back to town and told the men, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"

Meanwhile, the disciples asked Jesus to eat some of the food they had brought, but He told them that He had meat to eat that they knew not of. The disciples wondered where Jesus had obtained food, but He said that His meat was to do the will of His Father and to finish His work.

When the woman told the men of the city about Jesus, they wanted to see Him. Many other people believed on Jesus from hearing her testimony, and they wanted to see Jesus for themselves; so they all went out to where Jesus was. When they saw Him, they asked Him to stay with them for a while and talk to them. Jesus agreed to stay for two more days before leaving to go to Galilee.

As the people of Sychar listened to Jesus, many of them believed on Him because of His own words. Then they told the woman that they believed, not because of her words alone, but because they had heard Jesus themselves. They knew that He was "indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

Where did the woman of Samaria meet Jesus?



At the _____

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* —John 4:24

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