

Home Group One to One Series

Week 2 - The Samaritan Woman: John 4:1-26

What would you say to someone who says that they ARE spiritual? That they believe that they find God on the top of a hill, in nature or somewhere else?

Read John 4:1-15

1. On their journey from Judea to Galilee, why do you think most Jews would not take the short cut through Samaria? (v3-4) But Jesus **had** to go that way v4. Why?
2. What might be the reason the woman drew water at noon, the hottest time of day? (v6)
3. What three characteristics of this Samaritan woman mean that she is despised by the orthodox Jew? (v9, 18)
4. What is Jesus' view of defilement? What does this tell us about the salvation Jesus offers? How should that affect us and our attitude to others?
5. What do you think Jesus means by 'living water' v10? See - Is 55:1 & Ps 36:9. And it's a free gift too. Only given by Jesus!
6. What conclusions do people come to about Jesus these days? How might we counter them?
7. What does the 'Living Water' provide for those who 'drink' vs 13&14? What is the 'Thirst Quenching' and 'Springing up' symbolism?
8. How seriously is the woman taking this discourse with Jesus v15?

Read John 4:16-26

Jesus changes the direction of the conversation challenging the woman's lifestyle v16-18. Jesus knows all about her! She is impressed!

9. What has Jesus forced this woman to face up to v19? *She's moving toward Jesus but doesn't recognise He is the Christ.*

10. The woman tried to deflect Jesus from herself to 'religious' divisions v20. How might people these days mirror this woman's attitude? What are the distractions from the person of Jesus? How might we, and others, fail to apply His message to our lives? *Jesus points her to the Father of ALL, (v21) and the imperfect worship offered by her.*

11. How might this help us redirect people's woolly thinking on spiritual matters, where to worship and patterns of worship? vs 22-24. What does Jesus mean that worship **must** be in 'Spirit and 'Truth' v24? *God seeks those worshippers.*

The woman has some idea of the Messiah as the one to reveal everything with clarity v25. She uses this to evade Jesus' challenge!

12. In v26 Jesus actually says, 'I that speak to you, I am.' (there is no 'he' in the Greek). What is He saying about Himself? Why does He choose to reveal Himself to this Samaritan woman and not to Jews He encounters?

13. This is a challenge to respond. She does - see v29 and 42.

14. How might this shape the way we tell others about Jesus and His uniqueness?

Prayer Points

~ *Pray for opportunities to share the truth of Jesus.*

~ *Pray that we would not be sidetracked by irrelevances.*

~ *Pray for an honesty and openness with the Lord in our worship both corporately and personally.*

~ *Pray that we would present Jesus truly as Good News for ALL people.*

~ *Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, in hard places, as they do the same and face extreme opposition.*