

HEARING FOR OURSELVES (WOMAN AT THE WELL PART 5)

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JOHN 4:3-27 MSG

- ¹⁻³Jesus realized that the Pharisees were keeping count of the baptisms that He and John performed (although His disciples, not Jesus, did the actual baptizing). They had posted the score that Jesus was ahead, turning Him and John into rivals in the eyes of the people. So Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee.
- ⁴⁻⁶To get there, He had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.
- ⁷⁻⁸A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give Me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)
- ⁹The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come You, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)
- ¹⁰Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking Me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."
- ¹¹⁻¹²The woman said, "Sir, You don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are You going to get this 'living water'? Are You a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"
- ¹³⁻¹⁴Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."
- ¹⁵The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"
- ¹⁶He said, "Go call your husband and then come back."
- ¹⁷⁻¹⁸"I have no husband," she said.
"That's nicely put: 'I have no husband.' You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough."
- ¹⁹⁻²⁰"Oh, so You're a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?"

continued ►

JOHN 4:3-27 MSG (CONTINUED)

²¹⁻²³“Believe Me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. 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.

²³⁻²⁴“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. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”

²⁵The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When He arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

²⁶“I am He,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

²⁷Just then His disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn’t believe He was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

JOHN 4:28-42 ESV

²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,
²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”
³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to Him.
³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”
³²But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”
³³So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him something to eat?”
³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.
³⁵Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
³⁶Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.
³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’
³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”
³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”
⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days.
⁴¹And many more believed because of His word.
⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

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