

Simply Jesus | Surprised By Jesus

John 4:1-39

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I. The most important question we must answer is: Who is Jesus?

II. Surprised by Jesus (John 4:1-45)

a. Jesus went out of His way for the sake of the Gospel. (4:1-4)

And He had to pass through Samaria.

—John 4:4

So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

—John 4:5-6

A woman from Samaria came to draw water...

—John 4:7a

b. Jesus pursued people who most thought didn't deserve His attention. (4:5-9; 27)

They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

—John 4:27

The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"

—John 4:9

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and

He would have given you living water.”

—John 4:10

*“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him
will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him
will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal
life.”*

—John 4:13-14

c. Only Jesus can fully satisfy the deepest longings of our soul. (4:10-15)

*“Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or
have to come here to draw water.”*

—John 4:15

*Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come
here.” 17The woman answered Him, “I have no
husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I
have no husband’; 18for you have had five husbands, and
the one you now have is not your husband. What you
have said is true.”*

—John 4:16-18

“Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

—John 4:19

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn
the world, but in order that the world might be saved
through Him.*

—John 3:17

d. Jesus meets us where we are but He doesn't leave us how He finds us. (4:16-30)

*Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but You say that
in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”*

—John 4:20

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

—John 4:21-24

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

—John 4:25-26

So 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.

—John 4:28-30

Many 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."

—John 4:39-40

III. Our personal experience with Jesus can't be denied. (4:28-29; 39-42)

Study Questions

1. One of the most wonderful truths of the Gospel is that Jesus

meets people where they are but He doesn't leave them as He finds them. Read John 4:1-39. How is this truth seen here in Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman? Also, explain how this Gospel reality runs contrary to what most people think about Christianity. Explain.

2. Reflect on Romans 5:6-11. What do these verses teach us about God's love towards us? Compare these words to the scene in John 4:7-26. Identify all the ways this woman at the well might have been surprised by Jesus and their encounter at the well.
3. The woman's response to Jesus's revelation as Messiah compelled her to run into town and tell others who she had found. Look at John 4:28-29, 39. What can you observe about her approach to telling others about Jesus? Be specific. Also, take some time to discuss both the power and simplicity of one's personal testimony.
4. Take a few minutes to draft your own personal testimony. Break your faith story down into these (3) parts:
 - My life before Jesus
 - How I came to faith in Jesus
 - My life since coming to faith in Jesus

The goal isn't to share your life story; instead, the goal is to share your faith story. Therefore, keep it short and simple. Finally, take some time to have each person (if time allows) to share their testimony. Pair everyone up with another person and practice telling your story. Before closing out your group, share any learnings from this exercise.