

## The Bad Samaritan Meets The Living Water

### 1. The Setting: A meeting that should never have happened

Background on Samaria

Racial bias against the Samaritans

Jesus **must go** through Samaria

### 2. The Conversation: from Physical to Spiritual Thirst

Jesus goes to the city of Sychar, the ancient Shechem.

1. Abram came there first when he arrived in Canaan from Babylonia. (Genesis 12:6)
2. God first appeared to Abram and renewed the promise of giving him the land. (Genesis 12:7)
3. Abram built an altar and called on the name of the Lord. (Genesis 12:8)
4. Jacob arrived here safely with his wives and children after being with Laban. (Genesis 33:19)
5. This is where Jacob built an altar to the Lord and called it *El Eloe Israel*. (Genesis 33:20) This established the connection between Jacob and what became known as Jacob's well in Sychar.
6. This was the plot of ground that Jacob gave to Joseph. (Genesis 48:22)
7. The bones of Joseph were eventually carried to this site and buried there (Joshua 24:32)
8. This is the place where Joshua made a covenant with Israel, renewing their commitment to the God of Israel and proclaiming, *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.* (Joshua 24)  
(From David Guzik, *John*. Enduring Word Commentary Series)

- He appeals to her in kindness – could you give me a drink? The woman responds defensively.
- He appeals to her curiosity – “if you knew who was talking to you, you would have asked him and he would give you living water.” She responds sarcastically.
- Jesus now appeals to her spiritual need, but she is still thinking only of physical needs. John 4: 13

- Some scriptures on life-giving water:

**Psalm 42: 1 – 2** As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

**Isaiah 55: 1** - “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

**Psalm 36: 8,9** They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

**Jeremiah 2: 13, 17:13** tells us for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

- Jesus appeals to her personal interest (her husband), and she responds with a half-truth.

### 3. The Revelation: Seeing the heart

- Jesus appeals to her conscience, her soul, when he says, “You’re right; you’ve had five husbands and the man you’re living with now is not your husband.”
- Jesus appeals to her will, but she deflects

## 4. The Transformation: from Shame to Testimony

- She says, “I know that the Messiah is coming, he that is called the Christ.”
- And Jesus reveals his identity to her! “I AM HE.”

Some questions to ponder:

1. Have you ever thought your sin is not as bad as other people’s sin? Do we think too lightly of our own sin?
2. What is living water? What does it mean to be satisfied with it?
3. How is a Christian who constantly drinks from the pleasures of this world testifying against Jesus?

### Resources

Outline ideas from Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights: John* and [bibleanalysis.org/thewomanatthewell](http://bibleanalysis.org/thewomanatthewell).

Ardavanis, Jonny. YouTube video, “Spirit and Truth.”

Ardavanis, Jonny. YouTube video, “The Woman at the Well.”

Carter / Wredberg. *Bible-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in John*. Brentwood Publishing.

Guzik, David. *John Verse by Verse Commentary*. Enduring Word Series

Hamrick, Gary. YouTube video, “Complete in Jesus.”

Heitzig, Skip. YouTube video, “The Bad Samaritan”

Swindoll, Charles. *Living Insights: John*. Tyndale House Publishers.

Website – [Bibleanalysis.org/TheWomanattheWell](http://Bibleanalysis.org/TheWomanattheWell).

Website – [theologyfortherestofus.org](http://theologyfortherestofus.org) / The Woman at the Well

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Alive: John 1 – 12*. David Cook Publishing

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