
DAY 3 • AUGUST 7

Unashamed Because of Jesus**READ: JOHN 4:4-42**

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. . . . ³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”

JOHN 4:28-30,39**REFLECT**

The Samaritan woman had a life that was nothing close to ideal. First of all, she was a woman. Women back in that day and place were treated like second-class citizens. Some could even say that they were on the same level or just one level higher than a man’s property.

Besides this, she was a Samaritan. Samaritans were an isolated group who did not interact with or have anything to do with the rest of the people in their region. Lastly, she had a history of failed relationships with men.

This string of events in her life may have made her bitter, insecure, or even made her doubt that anything good could ever come out of it. The Bible says she was getting water at lunch time, in the heat of the noontime sun. This may mean she was avoiding the other women of her village who usually drew their water in the morning. It was there she met Jesus.

At first, she was confused. Why was this Jew speaking to her so casually? Didn’t He know any better? Little did she realize how much He really knew.

What started out as a confusing episode soon led to a burning curiosity about this man who, a few sentences into the conversation, was telling her things a stranger couldn’t have known. They were things she may even have been ashamed to talk about.

The Samaritans believed that when the Messiah came, He would reveal to them all things. And this man who was standing in front of her did just that.

What He said next made a mark both on the woman's personal life, and in the Bible. This was the first time Jesus referred to Himself as the Messiah to another person. Of all the people He could have first revealed himself to, why was it to this broken woman?

While we can only speculate on His reasons, let us turn our attention to the woman. Her life probably showed her that nothing ever seemed to satisfy her. She was searching for something, but did not know what it was. Then Jesus came, met her in her present condition, and offered her Himself as the living water that will always satisfy.

Some of us encountered Jesus when we were searching for something that would satisfy us. Some of us encountered Jesus when we were at the lowest points of our lives.

We, like the Samaritan woman, may never know why Jesus showed Himself to us in a specific time and situation, but we can be certain there was a significant reason He did. This reason can be found in the response of the woman—to tell her whole town that she had just encountered the Messiah.

When we encounter Christ, our lives begin to change. We experience what it means to have someone know us—every single part of us—yet offer Himself for us as an act of love. And with all Jesus did for us, the only proper response would be to tell everyone we know about it. What followed the woman's encounter with Jesus was not just her personal redemption story, but the redemption of a number of people from her town.

The story of the Samaritan woman is just a glimpse of God's plan for His people. He takes away the sin and shame we felt in the past, and makes us new—not just for our own benefit, but for the redemption of the families, campuses, and communities we come from.

RESPOND

1. Since your encounter with Jesus, how has your life changed? What are you most grateful for?
2. What issues did you struggle with before you knew Christ? How has Christ redeemed you from these after you met Him? Reflect on these and thank God for His continuing work of redemption in your life.
3. Have you ever shared your testimony with others? If yes, how can you continue to preach the gospel through your testimony? If no, what usually stops you? How can you commit to boldly sharing what Christ has done in your life?

PRAY

1. Pray for increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading as you interact with different people in your daily life.
2. Pray for continued boldness in telling others about what Christ has done in your life, and in preaching the gospel to them and inviting them to experience Christ's power for themselves.