

The Word

one to one

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Episode 8

An amazing offer

JOHN 4:1-26

*In the previous episode:
Who Jesus is and how
we get into His kingdom.*

*In this episode:
The last person you
would expect to enter
God's kingdom.*

¹ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptising more disciples than John – ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised, but his disciples.

³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria.



Crossing boundaries

Notice that we've changed location. Samaria was once part of Northern Israel, but the Assyrians invaded it in 732 BC and deliberately moved in other nations and religions.

The result was that Samaritans were despised by the Jews as not being 'pure' Jewish and they weren't allowed to worship in the temple in Jerusalem.

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

Let's turn back to Ezekiel

→ Ezekiel 37:22

²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.

Who was Jacob?

- Jacob was an important man in Jewish history: the twelve tribes of Israel are named after his family.
- Joseph (of Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat fame) was one of his sons.

Jacob's well is still visited in Israel to this day.


You may remember we've mentioned Ezekiel, God's prophet in around 600 BC.

He prophesied that when the Messiah, God's long-promised King, arrived He would bring Samaria back into God's kingdom:

- One king.
- One nation.
- One way to worship.

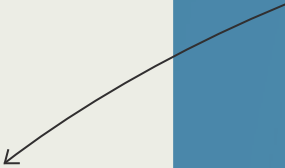
In other words, if Jesus really is the Messiah, what He does in Samaria is a big deal.

Now back
to John

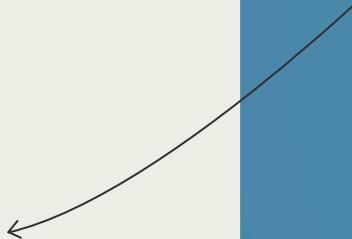


⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’ ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)



¹⁰ Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’



Living water

Tired and thirsty, Jesus sits down for a drink.

According to the culture of the time, Jesus shouldn't be talking to a woman and certainly not to a Samaritan.

What is the gift Jesus offers?

- 'Living water!' (v. 10)

What is 'living water'?

- Jesus is using water (H₂O) and the life that it brings as a picture for the spiritual life that He offers.

Jesus says that if the Samaritan woman asks Him, He will give her this life.

But will she see who Jesus is?
And will she ask?

¹¹ ‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?’

¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?’

¹³ Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’

