JESUS

THE LIFE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD | WEEK THREE

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

How do you learn *everything* about the most important person who ever lived? You don't. 😄 There's no way to learn *everything* about Jesus–but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try! That's why we're on an eight-week journey through **"The Most Important Moments in Jesus' Life."**

If you remember just *one* thing from this whole series, let it be this:

👉 **Jesus is full of never-ending love and mercy.**

We're going to see that front and center today with a conversation Jesus had with someone most people avoided–a woman nobody wanted to talk to. It all led her to see that…

Jesus is the ultimate thirst quencher

Grab your Bible and turn to **John 4:1-15**. Keep it open–we'll be coming back to it.

Let's talk about what's going on here. In Jesus' time, most Jewish people traveled to Jerusalem several times a year for big religious festivals. If you lived up north in Galilee, you usually had to pass through–or go around–an area called **Samaria**.

But Jews *did not* like Samaritans. At all.

There was a long, painful history between them. Each side thought the other was wrong about God. At one point, the Samaritans attacked the Jews when they tried to return from slavery and rebuild their homes–not cool! So, when it came to traveling, most Jews took the long way around Samaria to avoid trouble.

This raises a big question: 👉 Why did Jesus go straight through Samaria? *What was He up to?*

How would you rank the top moments in the ministry of Jesus? He did so many amazing things and taught so many profound truths that it's impossible to rank them in order by importance. This eight-week study will work through some of the highlights of Jesus' ministry, culminating in His death and resurrection.

Okay, quick question: if you're traveling all day on foot, what do you need most?

Back then, there were no gas stations with fountain drinks, so travelers stopped at wells. Jesus got there at **noon**–the hottest part of the day. People from the nearby town would've gotten water early in the morning when it was cooler, but one woman showed up *alone* in the middle of the day.

We don't know for sure, but it seems pretty obvious she was **avoiding** other people. Let's be honest–when we feel embarrassed, left out, or judged, we sometimes try to hide, too.

Think about what this means. This woman lived in the town, but she felt like an outsider. She felt like people looked down on her. Why? What we she hiding? What was she ashamed of?

You know what's great? **Jesus knew the answer.** But instead of ignoring her or shaming her, He talked openly with her about it. Check out what happened next.

Let's read **John 4:16-26**.

It's pretty clear this woman's life hadn't gone the way she had hoped. She'd been married several times and was now living with a man who wasn't her husband. People probably whispered about her. Judged her. Pushed her away.

Like everyone else, she wanted to be loved. **She wanted to fit in.** She wanted to matter.

But are you catching the "deeper" image here (pun intended)? This whole conversation with Jesus took place around a *deep* **well**.

So, let's put this together:

1) The woman kept coming back to the well because she was thirsty.

2) She also kept going from relationship to relationship because she was thirsty for **love, acceptance, and worth**.

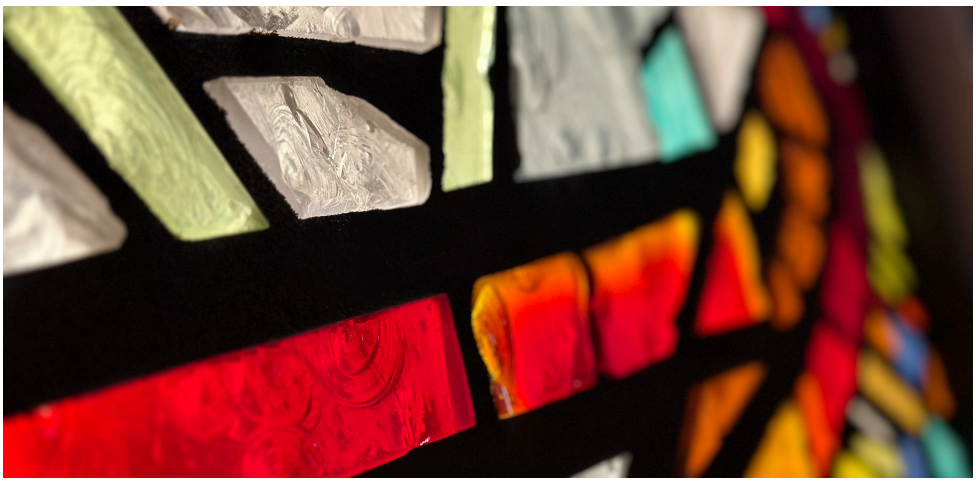
See the picture? 👀 She was stuck in an unhealthy cycle of desperation.

See, sometimes people talk about a "honeymoon phase." That's the beginning of a relationship, when everything feels exciting and amazing–like a big emotional sugar rush. But that feeling doesn't last forever. **It can't hold up a relationship all by itself.** Sure, it's fun, but it's nothing compared to the type of real love and deep respect that develops between married couples who've supported each other through hard times.

So maybe that's why this woman kept moving from one relationship to another… she kept chasing the "honeymoon phase" emotional rush. And every time, like clockwork, **it crashed out.** Or maybe it was the men who were chasing the rush and kept walking away from her after it was over. Either way, her heart was broken and deeply thirsty.

That's why what Jesus said was so wonderful: He offered her **living water**–a kind of water that satisfies forever. But of course, He wasn't just talking about water. He was talking about love.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, YOUNG MEN OFTEN MET THEIR FUTURE SPOUSES AT WELLS. ANCIENT JEWS HEARING THIS ACCOUNT MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED JESUS AND THE WOMAN TO GET MARRIED. HOW IS WHAT JESUS DID EVEN GREATER THAN THAT?



THE AMAZING LOVE OF JESUS

Just imagine…

A **love** so real that you don't have to keep chasing it.

A **love** that tells you: *You matter. You are forgiven. You are safe.*

A **love** that never goes away or fades.

A **love** that knows everything about you, and still sacrifices for you.

That's what Jesus offered that Samaritan woman. And that moment changed her life.

And here's the best part: Jesus offers that same love to **you**. Even when you feel left out. Even when you mess up. Even when you fail. Jesus' love never runs out. His grace never gets tired.

This is the type of love we all deeply need. That's why Jesus is the **ultimate thirst quencher**. 💧✨

Let's watch this 4-minute video about the type of love Jesus gives us– https://bibleproject.com/videos/agape-love/

DID THE VIDEO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN A NEW WAY?

ONLY GOD CAN FILL THE EMPTINESS IN YOUR HEART

When Have you ever worked really hard on a puzzle–maybe for a long time–only to realize at the very end that **one piece** is missing? 😩 You look everywhere: under the table, in the box, maybe even in the dog's bed. But no matter what you do, the puzzle is still incomplete. Even if every other piece is perfect, missing just one piece means the picture isn't finished.

Sometimes our lives feel like that too. It's like there's an empty space deep inside us, and we know something is missing. So we try to fill it. We think, "If I just had this… then I'd feel better." Maybe it's getting more stuff, being really good at something, or getting lots of attention. And when those things don't work, we just find ways to **distract** ourselves so we don't have to think about that empty feeling at all.

The Samaritan woman at the well tried to fill the empty space–the missing piece–in her life by looking for love in relationships. She thought that if she could just find the right person to love her, everything would finally feel right.

Something similar happened to a man named **Nicky Gumbel**. When he was in college at Cambridge University, he didn't believe in God at all. He worked really hard because he thought success would make him happy. He kept telling himself, "If I just get through this **next** test, then I'll be good." But after that test came another one. Then he thought, "If I just get a girlfriend, then I'll be happy." But even after that happened, he still felt like something was missing.

Nicky realized he was always looking ahead to the next thing. He never felt happy **right now**. Deep down, he knew that no matter how awesome his future looked, it would never fully satisfy him. He needed something more.

Then something unexpected happened–his roommate became a Christian. That made Nicky curious, so he started reading the Bible. And as he did, he said he met Jesus and felt a new kind of spiritual hunger–one that was immediately filled by a deep joy and fullness he had never known before.

Nicky and the Samaritan woman learned the same important lesson: they needed a deeper kind of love. And they both found it in Jesus.

Jesus' love is different. It's the love of God Himself. It's not something you have to wait for in the future–it's for you **right now**. It doesn't rush in and then disappear. It stays. It doesn't just make you feel good for a moment–it changes who you are on the inside.

Jesus is the missing puzzle piece–the one that finally makes your whole picture complete.

THE ULTIMATE HOPE JESUS GIVES

Jesus' love is so amazing, it overflows to others.

Back to Nicky Gumbel. Not long after he became a Christian at Cambridge in 1977, he started a small Bible study at his church for new believers. He called it the **Alpha Course**. At first, it was just a small group–but today, Alpha is used all over the world! It's been translated into more than 100 languages, and over **25 million people** have gone through it. 🤯

How did something that small turn into something that big? Jesus explains it like this: when His love fills your heart, it doesn't stop there–it **spills over** into other people. That's exactly what happened to the Samaritan woman. Let's read **John 4:39–42**.

The Samaritan woman was so changed by Jesus that she ran back to her town and told everyone about Him. And because of her story, many people came to Jesus and believed that He really is **"the Savior of the world."**

Jesus had told her that if she drank the water He gives, she wouldn't just be filled–she would become like a **well** herself. That means other people would be refreshed and helped through her. That's how Jesus' love works. It fills us up, and then it flows out to others.

Now, our world talks a lot about having good self-esteem–feeling good about yourself. That's important! The world often says, "Look inside yourself. Tell yourself nice things. Do what makes you happy. Follow your passions." Those can be good things–but they all depend on **us** finding something in **ourselves** or being strong enough on **our own**.

Jesus' love is different.

Jesus doesn't just tell us to try harder–He **did something for us**. He gave His life for us so our sins could be forgiven. Because of that, our identity changes. We aren't defined by our mistakes. We aren't defined by what others think of us. We aren't even defined by what we think about ourselves.

We are defined by **Jesus' love**. We are defined by our baptism!

Remember how Jesus treated the Samaritan woman–with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness–even though He knew her past? That's really good news for us. No matter what we've done or what we've been through, Jesus' love is like a deep well that never runs dry. It's always full of grace.

And when that love fills us up, it changes us from the inside out–so we can become people who show love, kindness, and grace to others too. 💧