

The Man who Understood Women

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I. Introduction. Text: John 4:1-42.

II. Key factors.

A. The reason Jesus left Judea was to avoid controversy over the baptism of Jesus and the baptism of John. Many denominations today have split over the proper mode of baptism.

B. Jesus went through Samaria even though there was great prejudice against the Samaritans by the Jews.

III. The encounter with the Samaritan woman.

A. Jesus interacted with a woman who was a Samaritan. Samaritans were looked down upon because of their past idolatry.

B. Jesus took the opportunity at hand to witness to the woman about the Holy Spirit whom He calls the living water.

1. The woman misunderstands Jesus because she took Him literally.

2. The truth that Jesus meant to communicate was that there is a place where a person's inner thirst can be met instantly that is from within.

3. Through the Spirit, a believer experiences the quality of life that is called eternal life.

C. There was something inhibiting the woman's understanding, so He proceeds to address it.

1. The woman had five husbands and was living with another man.

2. Jesus knew that she had to come to the place of repentance for belief.

3. He led her gently to this place.

D. Jesus' solution.

1. The time is coming when geography will not matter for worship. The body will be the place of worship. Temples and other symbols would no longer be valid for worship.

2. The woman's knowledge was incomplete—true worship is done in the heart and it is honest.

3. True worship is done in the spirit because God is spirit. It is a joining together of spirit with spirit.

E. The results.

1. The woman immediately became an evangelist.
2. Jesus taught the disciples that there is deep satisfaction in doing God's work.
3. There is joy in sharing labor.

Application questions:

1. How would you characterize the approach Jesus took in witnessing to the Samaritan woman?

2. Why was Jesus acknowledging the woman's sin an important part of His message to her?

3. What can you do this week to reach out to someone who does not have a relationship with Christ? Explain.
