

A WOMAN BRINGS OTHERS TO MEET JESUS

One day, a woman came to draw water from a well. Jesus was sitting near the well, and asked the woman for a drink of water. The woman was surprised that Jesus was speaking with her. Then Jesus said, "If only you knew who I am, you would ask me for a drink and I would give you living water. The water I can give you will let you live forever, eternally.

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water."

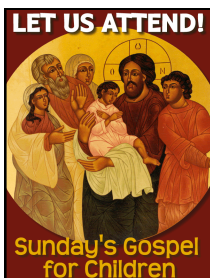
Because Jesus is God, he knew about this woman, even though he had just met her. She began to see that Jesus was sent from God. She then went back to the city and told her friends about Jesus. Many people came to believe in Jesus because of this woman at the well.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the icon. Where did the story happen?
2. What did Jesus ask the woman for?
3. Jesus told the woman that he had special water. What did he say about it?
4. We celebrated Pascha three weeks ago. Pascha is three days after Jesus was crucified. Jesus rose from the dead to live forever with the Father. Because of Jesus we can live forever.
5. Jesus told the woman about her life. What did the woman do then?



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



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• THE SAMARITAN WOMAN •



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A WOMAN BRINGS OTHERS TO MEET JESUS

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ came to Sy'char, a city in Samari'ia, near the field that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. Jesus was tired from His trip, so He sat down by Jacob's well. His disciples went into Sy'char to buy food.

While Jesus sat there, a woman came to get water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink. "Why are you, a Jew, asking me, a Samaritan (who the Jews do not like), and a woman, to give you a drink?" asked the Samaritan woman.

"If you knew who was asking this, you would ask Him for living water!" Jesus answered. "But you don't have anything to get the water with, and this well is deep. Where would you get this living water?" asked the confused woman.

"Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again," Jesus answered. "But whoever drinks the living water I give them will never be thirsty again—it will give them eternal life."

"Sir, give me some of this water!" said the woman. "First, go get your husband," Jesus said. "I do not have a husband," she answered. "This is true," Jesus said. "You have had five husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband."

"Wow! I can see that you are a prophet. I know the Messiah is coming and he will tell us everything we need to know," said the woman. "I am He," Jesus answered.

The disciples came back then, but didn't ask Jesus any questions about what was going on. The Samaritan woman hurried back into Sy'char and told the people there, "Come, and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Maybe He is the Christ!" And many people went to see Jesus.

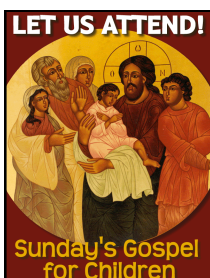
Many Samaritans believed in Jesus just because of what the woman told them about Him. They asked Him to stay there, so He stayed for two days. Many more believed when they heard Jesus speak. They told the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you said, but because we heard Him ourselves. We know that He is the Christ, the Savior of the world."



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where did Jesus sit down when He got tired?
2. Who came while He was resting there?
3. What did Jesus ask her for?
4. What does Jesus say will happen to someone who drinks His living water?
5. Where does the woman go when the disciples come back to the well?
6. If you lived in Sy'char then, would you have gone to see Jesus? Why or why not?
7. Listen closely during the Divine Liturgy. We too are invited to "taste the fountain of immortality"—the living water! What is it?



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THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samar'ia?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?"

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers wor-

shipped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming [he who is called the Christ]; when he comes, he will tell us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who said to me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him



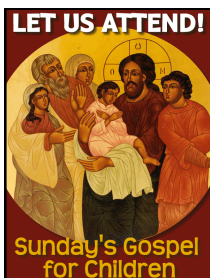
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food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He said to me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why did Jesus sit down by a well? Whose well had it been, long before?
2. What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for? Did she give it to him?
3. When the woman went into the city, she told people that Jesus may be the Christ. How did Jesus show the woman that he was not just a man?
4. How did so many Samaritans from that city come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world?
5. What about you? Do you tell other people about what God has done for you? Do you invite them to come and see him for themselves?



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THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Woman, Disciples, People

Narrator: At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her,

Jesus: Give me a drink.

Narrator: For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Woman: How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samar'ia?

Narrator: For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

Woman: Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?

Jesus: Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Woman: Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.

Jesus: Go, call your husband, and come here.

Woman: I have no husband.

Jesus: You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly.

Woman: Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Jesus: Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for

salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Woman: I know that Messiah is coming [he who is called the Christ]; when he comes, he will tell us all things.

Jesus: I who speak to you am he.

Narrator: Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people,

Woman: Come, see a man who said to me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?

Narrator: They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying

Disciples: Rabbi, eat.

Jesus: I have food to eat of which you do not know.

Narrator: So the disciples said to one another,

Disciples: Has anyone brought him food?

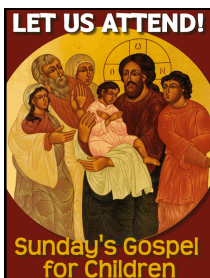
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Narrator: Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony.

Woman: He said to me all that I ever did.

Narrator: So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his words. They said to the woman,

People: It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.



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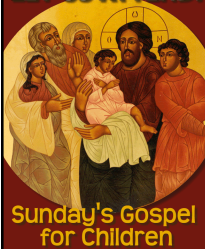
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the Samaritan woman say to Jesus after she calls him a prophet?
2. Why do you think this question was important to her and others at that time? Why would the place someone worships be important? What does this tell us about what they thought about God?
3. How does Jesus respond to her question about where she should worship?
4. What do you think it means to "worship the Father in spirit and truth?"
5. Who does Jesus say God is? How does this affect the way God should be worshipped?
6. How do we worship the Father today? What does that tell you about what our church thinks about God?
7. Do you think there are some ways to worship God that are better than others? Why or why not?

LET US ATTEND!



Sunday's Gospel
for Children

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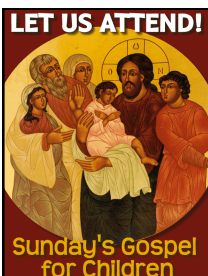
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does the Samaritan woman respond when Jesus tells her that he would have given her "living water?"
2. When Jesus describes that a person will never thirst again after drinking this living water, what does the Samaritan woman say? Why does she want Jesus to give her this water?
3. What is she focused on? Is she thinking about water in the same way Jesus is? How is she thinking about it?
4. After Jesus tells her everything she has ever done and the disciples come, the Samaritan woman goes back to the city. What does she leave behind? How does this tell us that her perspective has changed? What happened that made her forget the practical task she was doing? What does she start to understand about Jesus that she didn't understand before?
5. What might this



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