

LISTENER GUIDE

The Woman at the Well

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '12)

Story of Samaritan woman at the well—John 4:1–42

Jesus *had* to pass through Samaria (v. 4).

- The Greek verb here means “to be _____.”
- The Jews would not step foot in Samaria and took an indirect route from Judea to Galilee.
- Jesus took the direct route. He was on His way to a _____.

Jesus was tired after this walk (v. 6).

- The distance for Jesus to travel would have been a walk of about two days.
- It’s comforting to know that Jesus got _____, because we get _____.
- Jesus is holy God and holy human. He comforts us because He knows the _____.

Jesus meets a woman who is much more _____ than He is (vv. 7–8).

- He is talking to a Samaritan woman knowing the teaching of His day—that Samaritan women should be strictly avoided.
- The Samaritan woman is isolated and on the fringes.
- She comes to the well alone at the hottest point of the day.
- When the women gathered water in those days, they usually came together as a group to chat and exchange news.

Jesus doesn’t respond to the _____ of the woman at the well. Rather, He responds to her _____ (vv. 9–15).

- He knows her life is a mess, but He invites her to have the thirst in her heart and her life quenched once and for all.
- Her _____ would only change after her _____ would change. He’s saying, “Give me your heart first. And then I’ll give you the power to change your life.”

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter and shows why the woman so desperately needs these living waters (vv. 16–18).

- He reveals her _____, but doesn't _____ her. He simply states the truth.
- Her past relationships show how emotionally thirsty she is.

Jesus challenges her thinking about _____ (vv. 19–24).

- True worship is the true measure of true devotion to God.
- God wants us to worship Him in a genuine, _____ manner.

Jesus satisfies the woman's _____ thirst (vv. 25–26).

- She has an encounter with the one who knows exactly who she is, and He loves her nonetheless.
- She finds real _____ in Jesus, for the first time in her life.

The woman's _____ leads to _____ (vv. 28–30, 39–42).

- She runs back to the very people she's been trying to avoid to tell them about Jesus.
- She's open, transparent, free—her thirst has been quenched by the living waters.

We think we are clever or effective in hiding guilt or shame, but in truth we are very thirsty. We are thirsty physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually, trying to use other things to fill a gap that only Christ can fill.

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

The Woman at the Well

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '12)

Story of Samaritan woman at the well—John 4:1–42

Jesus had to pass through Samaria (v. 4).

- The Greek verb here means “to be necessary.”
- The Jews would not step foot in Samaria and took an indirect route from Judea to Galilee.
- Jesus took the direct route. He was on His way to a divine appointment.

Jesus was tired after this walk (v. 6).

- The distance for Jesus to travel would have been a walk of about two days.
- It’s comforting to know that Jesus got tired, because we get tired.
- Jesus is holy God and holy human. He comforts us because He knows the human condition.

Jesus meets a woman who is much more thirsty than He is (vv. 7–8).

- He is talking to a Samaritan woman knowing the teaching of His day—that Samaritan women should be strictly avoided.
- The Samaritan woman is isolated and on the fringes.
- She comes to the well alone at the hottest point of the day.
- When the women gathered water in those days, they usually came together as a group to chat and exchange news.

Jesus doesn’t respond to the attitude of the woman at the well. Rather, He responds to her heart (vv. 9-15).

- He knows her life is a mess, but He invites her to have the thirst in her heart and her life quenched once and for all.
- Her behavior would only change after her heart would change. He’s saying, “Give me your heart first. And then I’ll give you the power to change your life.”

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter and shows why the woman so desperately needs these living waters (vv. 16–18).

- He reveals her sin, but doesn't shame her. He simply states the truth.
- Her past relationships show how emotionally thirsty she is.

Jesus challenges her thinking about worship (vv. 19–24).

- True worship is the true measure of true devotion to God.
- God wants us to worship Him in a genuine, transparent manner.

Jesus satisfies the woman's spiritual thirst (vv. 25–26).

- She has an encounter with the one who knows exactly who she is, and He loves her nonetheless.
- She finds real intimacy in Jesus, for the first time in her life.

The woman's repentance leads to revival (vv. 28–30, 39–42).

- She runs back to the very people she's been trying to avoid to tell them about Jesus.
- She's open, transparent, free—her thirst has been quenched by the living waters.

We think we are clever or effective in hiding guilt or shame, but in truth we are very thirsty. We are thirsty physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually, trying to use other things to fill a gap that only Christ can fill.