

Jacob's Well



Lesson Title: Where He Finds Us—At a Broken Point



Key Concept: Wherever we are, in any situation, God can find us. His compassion finds us in our broken points when we find ourselves abandoned and alone.



Scriptures:

For God does not show favoritism.
(Romans 2:11 *New Living Translation*)

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”
(John 4:9 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: John 4; Deuteronomy 31:6–8; Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 61:1; Romans 8:31–39; John 3:16; Luke 4:16–21; 6:31–42; 19:10; Matthew 7:1–6; John 8:1–8; Acts 10:34



Lesson Thoughts:

What can God do with a broken life? Few stories in Scripture answer this question better than the story of the woman at the well in John 4. It begins with Jesus on a mission determined to meet a certain Samaritan woman. She wasn't royalty or anyone of great importance; she was an ordinary woman with an immoral reputation. A social outcast in her community, she was emotionally isolated and lived a lonely existence. An encounter with Jesus—the Messiah—was the last thing she expected as she went on her daily trip for water at the well.

The prospect of such a meeting was unlikely for several reasons. Socially, it was uncustomary for an unmarried woman to talk to a Jewish man alone. Culturally, the Jews and the Samaritans had a history of animosity towards one another, making it a socially unacceptable conversation. Morally, this woman had a

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tainted reputation because of her past marriages to five men and her present living arrangement with a man she was not married to. So, when Jesus asked her for a cup of water to drink, even she was surprised by the request! Jesus broke all the norms of his day by conversing with a woman like her. He had purposefully sent his disciples, who were traveling with him, to get lunch for this very reason. When the disciples returned, they were also shocked to find Jesus talking to this woman and didn't understand what he was doing.

This striking encounter between Jesus and the woman at the well displays the intentionality of Jesus' mission "to seek and save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10), and his compassion that drives it. People often respond to brokenness with judgment. Jesus responds with compassion. For the woman, his compassion transcended the judgments of others and transformed her purpose. A woman who had all but disappeared, both in self-worth and in her community, was visible again. She was one of the first people Jesus publicly revealed his identity to as the Messiah, and her testimony made her one of the first evangelists to spread the good news.

We are all the woman at the well: imperfect, sinners, and hopeless without Jesus. He knows exactly who we are when he finds us in our broken points. We are all his mission. Wherever we are, he finds us with intention and transforms us with compassion.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) How does being at a broken point help us to be aware of our need for Jesus?
- 2) Jesus responded to the woman with compassion rather than judgment. In what ways did this affect her response to him? How would this affect your response?
- 3) What is your reaction when Jesus uses someone that you would least expect him to?
- 4) Share how your transformation has impacted the kingdom of God.

Next Lesson: At the Optimal Point

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Read John 4. Identify which character you relate with most. Why? Pray about becoming more like Jesus in our response to broken points with compassion.
- 2) Read Romans 8:35–39 and Acts 10:34. How do these verses affect the way you view broken points in our lives?

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Notes and Reflections, cont.