

“Extraordinary Women – The Samaritan Woman”

1. To explain the origins of the Samaritans, we must go back to the days of the _____. After King Solomon ruled over the nation of Israel – the unwise actions of his son Rehoboam in the 10th century BC led to a _____ in which the kingdom was split into the northern kingdom of Israel & the southern kingdom of Judah, each with its own king.
2. Both kingdoms devolved into _____ and sin. Despite repeated warnings from prophets sent by God, they would be overtaken by conquerors.
3. The northern kingdom fared worse than the southern kingdom, with a long line of _____ rulers. It didn't help that the temple, where God's people were to worship, was located in the southern kingdom.
4. In 721 B.C., the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians. Many of the people of Israel were led off to Assyria as captives, but some remained in the land & _____ with foreigners planted there by the Assyrians. These half-Jewish, half-Gentile people became known as **the Samaritans**.
5. The Samaritans, being a mix of already _____ corrupt Israelites & pagan foreigners, created a religion for themselves that the Jews considered heresy.
6. They established as their _____ of worship a temple on Mount Gerizim, claiming it was where Moses had originally intended for the Israelites to worship. They had their own unique version of the 5 books written by Moses, the Pentateuch, but rejected the writings of the prophets & Jewish traditions.
7. The Samaritans saw themselves as the _____ descendants of Israel & preservers of the _____ religion, while considering the Jerusalem temple and Levitical priesthood illegitimate.
8. To the Jews, a Samaritan was more revolting than a Gentile (_____); Samaritans were half-breeds who defiled the true religion.
9. A lot about this story in John 4 contains remarkable elements:
 - A. It is unusual to find Jesus _____.
 - B. It is amazing to realize that God incarnate (in the _____) could grow physically weary (v. 6) or become thirsty (v. 7).

- C. It is startling that Jesus would _____ seek out & initiate a conversation with a insignificant Samaritan woman like this one.
- D. It was astonishing even to her that any _____ man would speak to her (v. 9).
- E. It was equally shocking for the disciples to find Him _____ to her (v. 27).
- F. It would have been considered outrageous for Him to drink from an unclean vessel that belonged to an “_____” woman.
- G. It was _____ for a woman like this to enter so quickly into an extended theological dialogue.
- H. It is astounding that her own sin was such a large issue in her own heart & mind (v. 29), even though Jesus had only referred to it indirectly (v. 18) and even though she initially seemed to try to “_____” the point (vv. 19-20).

10. John 4:1-42 – “**4** The Pharisees heard that Jesus was making & baptizing more followers than John, **2** although Jesus himself did not baptize people, but his followers did. **3** Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard about him, so he left Judea & went back to Galilee. **4** But on the way he had to go through the country of Samaria.

5 In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar, which is near the field Jacob gave to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside the well. It was about twelve o’clock noon. **7** When a Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water, Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” **8** (This happened while Jesus’ followers were in town buying some food.)

9 The woman said, “I am surprised that you ask me for a drink, since you are a Jewish man and I am a Samaritan woman.” (Jewish people are not friends with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus said, “If you only knew the free gift of God & who it is that is asking you for water, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” **11** The woman said, “Sir, where will you get this living water? The well is very deep, & you have nothing to get water with. **12** Are you greater than Jacob, our father, who gave us this well & drank from it himself along with his sons and flocks?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty again and will not have to come back here to get more water.”

¹⁶ Jesus told her, “Go get your husband & come back here.” ¹⁶ Jesus told her, “Go get your husband & come back here.” ¹⁷ The woman answered, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right to say you have no husband. ¹⁸ Really you have had five husbands, & the man you live with now is not your husband. You told the truth.”

¹⁹ The woman said, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship.”

²¹ Jesus said, “Believe me, woman. The time is coming when neither in Jerusalem nor on this mountain will you actually worship the Father. ²² You Samaritans worship something you don’t understand. We understand what we worship, because salvation comes from the Jews.

²³ The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, & those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming.” (Messiah is the One called Christ.) “When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus said, “I am he—I, the one talking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his followers came back from town & were surprised to see him talking with a woman. But none of them asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar & went back to town. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come & see a man who told me everything I ever did. Do you think he might be the Christ?” ³⁰ So the people left the town & went to see Jesus.

³¹ Meanwhile, his followers were begging him, “Teacher, eat something.” ³² But Jesus answered, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” ³³ So the

followers asked themselves, “Did somebody already bring him food?” ³⁴ Jesus said, “My food is to do what the One who sent me wants me to do & to finish his work. ³⁵ You have a saying, ‘Four more months till harvest.’ But I tell you, open your eyes & look at the fields ready for harvest now. ³⁶ Already, the one who harvests is being paid & is gathering crops for eternal life. So the one who plants & the one who harvests celebrate at the same time. ³⁷ Here the saying is true, ‘One person plants, & another harvests.’ ³⁸ I sent you to harvest a crop that you did not work on. Others did the work, & you get to finish up their work.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said: “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them, so he stayed there two more days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of the things he said.

⁴² They said to the woman, “First we believed in Jesus because of what you said, but now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

11. Gender taboos, racial divisions, and the class system would normally keep a man of Jesus’ status from _____ with a women such as she, much less drinking from a water container that belonged to her.

12. With this response, Jesus accomplished several things:

- A. He let her know that _____ you worship is not the issue.
- B. He made it clear that the religious traditions she had grown up in was totally & utterly _____.
- C. He subtly steered her back to the main subject by telling her a new age was dawning when neither Gerizim nor Jerusalem would have a _____ on the priesthood.

13. This is absolutely astonishing that the very 1st time Jesus chose to reveal Himself as _____, it was to a Samaritan woman with such a shady past.

14. However, His self-revelation is a testimony to her _____. The fact that He declared Himself so plainly is proof positive that the tiny germ of hope that had her looking for the Messiah in the 1st place was either about to develop into authentic, full-fledged faith – or else it already had sprouted. Jesus would not have committed Himself to an unbeliever. (v. 24)

15. Jesus had indeed found a _____ worshiper. Scriptures doesn't tell us what ultimately became of the Samaritan woman. Her heart was clearly _____ by her encounter with Christ.