In Jesus’ day, Jewish people were torn in their views, with 3 major religious parties: Pharisees, Sadducees, & Essenes. Politically, the Jewish people were under the mighty Roman Empire and while some chose to submit, others chose to fight (zealots).

And then there were the Samaritans - just north or Judea, with whom the Jews had a long-running feud - think 1st century Hatfield/Mccoys. (Samaritans were descendants of Jews who stayed in Israel during the Assyrian & Babylonian captivities, but disobeyed God by marrying people who didn’t follow Yahweh.)

Road Trip

**John 4:3–26** (ESV)

3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour [noon]. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

1) Jews & Samaritans don’t hang out. Different beliefs, different places of worship, different diets.

2) Devout Jewish men avoided being alone with women. Less temptation & perception of immorality.¹

3) This Samaritan woman was a moral outcast. Commentators have long pointed to the strange time she was at the well - NOON - instead of early morning or evening. WHY was she dodging other women? We are about to find out.

Living Water

10 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.” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

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¹ Tom Wright, John for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-10 (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2004), 41.
Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

What Jesus does is both proper and strategic—proper etiquette for a woman to talk with a man with her husband present; strategic because it placed her in the dilemma which exposes her ultimate need.

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 the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

She doesn’t know HOW He knows…but He knows. 5 marriages…now living with a man she isn’t married to.

Rather than responding with humility, rather than taking responsibility for her sin, she tries to protect herself by making it clear that she & the Jewish stranger have some major differences.

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people 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.

In Jesus difference between the sexes & cultures are appreciated, but NOT amplified. Do YOU treat people who are different from you with value?

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

That didn’t throw him off her scent…so let’s play the ‘let’s agree to disagree cause no one really knows’ card.

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

This is either the most egotistical statement every made…OR Jesus IS the long awaited Messiah.

Never in the 4 gospels do we see Jesus reveal Himself this quickly or clearly.

And Jesus offers her living water. He offers forgiveness…the woman who had 5 failed marriages & a live in boyfriend; to the woman had thought she had gone too far…she needed a HERO…and He flies in, to save the day.

ONE QUESTION: Is Jesus the HERO of my story?