



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 23 The Woman at the Well

Listen to *The Story*

Read Chapter 23 (part 2) of The Story

As you read pgs. 327-329 in chapter 23 ask yourself these questions:

The woman at the well says, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep." Without knowing it, her words poetically teach what important fact about her need for salvation from Jesus Jesus teaches, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick."

- What is he trying to teach?
- Who are "the sick?"
- Who are/is the "healthy?"

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.

The woman at the well had a questionable history...married numerous times, living with a man who was not her husband. She visited the well at the hottest part of the day because she was not welcome there.

Our human tendency is to judge others because of stereotypes, customs or prejudices. Jesus treats people as individuals, accepting them with love and compassion. Do you dismiss certain people as lost causes, or do you see them as valuable in their own right, worthy of knowing about the gospel? Do you feel you are unworthy?

Read Titus 3:3–7 and reflect.

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

As usual, Jesus tries to make his point easy to understand. Who doesn't understand what it means to be thirsty?

- Psalm 42:2 describes the psalmist's thirst for God.
- What promises do you find in Matthew 5:6?
- What promises do you find in John 6:35?

For what are you spiritually thirsty?

Luther's Explanation

What is this "living water?"

In an unexpected conversation, Jesus promises the Samaritan woman he meets at Jacob's well that he has living water for her and once she drinks it, she will never again be thirsty. Lutheran scholar Craig Koester writes about living water in his commentary on the symbolism in John's gospel.



"Like the living water that springs up at this point in the text, the imagination of the Gospel's readers must also leap up to a new level in order to catch the meaning of the symbolism. Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of this [well] 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. (John 4: 13-14)

The water in Jacob's well was bound to a place; it needed to be hauled out by hand, and it quenched thirst only for a short time. But the water Jesus promised was not bound to one place; it would spring up within a person so that he or she would never thirst again. The water from Jacob's well could extend life for a while, but living water from Jesus would issue into life everlasting, which in John's Gospel refers to life lived in relationship with God." (*Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery and Community* by Craig R. Koester p. 169.)

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"This day is My gift for you.
Today the ordinary ends and the spectacular begins."

The EXTRA Mile



Jesus knew everything about the Samaritan woman. He knows everything about us too.

At dinner, share a favorite story about each member of your family.