

Digging Deeper into John 4

Chat

- Have you ever felt like you didn't belong somewhere?
- Why did you feel like that?



Study

Read John 4:1-30; 39-42

- Why do you think it's strange for someone to come and draw water from the well at midday (v.6-7)?
 - What might this say about the woman?
- Why was she surprised that Jesus spoke to her (v.7-9)?
- Jesus offers her 'living water' to quench her thirst (v.10-15).
 - What does the woman think he means?
 - What do you think he means?
(It may help to look at Is.44:3-4; Jer.2:13; Jn.7:37-39)
- What is your immediate reaction when you read of the woman's relationships in v.16-18?
- If necessary, now think again about what her life might have been like.
- What makes her recognise that Jesus is a prophet, a man of God (v.19)?
- She picks up on a major difference between Jews and Samaritans worshipping God. She is concerned with 'where' they worshipped. What is Jesus concerned with (v.21-24)?
- What do you think it means to worship in spirit and in truth (v.24)?
 - Does this have anything to say to us about how we worship today?
- As a result of stating her belief in the Messiah or the Christ (God's promised Saviour), what does the woman discover (v.25-26)?
(It's interesting to note that in the Greek, Jesus doesn't say "I am he"; he says, "I am" – see Ex.3:14)
- Why were the disciples surprised (v.27)?
- What does the woman do (v.28-30)?
- What happens because of what she says (v.39-42)?
- Who are the "Samaritan women" we should be engaging with and sharing Jesus with today? What barriers do we put up that prevent people from meeting Jesus?

Even without knowing anything about her life, the disciples would have avoided her because she was a woman and a Samaritan. Jesus gets into a conversation with her and, as a result, she and many others came to realise that he was the Saviour of the world.

Pray

Come, gather before the Lord Jesus.
Come from the margins of your lives;
come from the places where you feel outcast;
come from the inner blindness you fear to admit.
Come from all that holds you back from fullness of life,
and call to the Lord for mercy.

Amen

Think



Vagabonds, Stuart Townend:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s27D7M8biul>

Listen to this song and/or read the lyrics below.

- Do you recognise yourself in the list of people mentioned?
- Think about the welcome you receive in church and the welcome you give to others. How does this song make you feel?

Come, all you vagabonds
Come all you 'don't belongs'
winners and losers
come, people like me.
Come all you travellers
tired from the journey
Come wait a while, stay a while
Welcomed you'll be.

Come all you questioners
looking for answers
and searching for reasons
and sense in it all
Come all you fallen
and come all you broken
Find strength for your body
and food for your soul.

*Come to the feast
There is room at the table
Come let us meet in this place
with the King of all kindness
who welcomes us in
with the wonder of love
and the power of grace
The wonder of love
and the power of grace*

Come those who worry
'bout houses and money
and all those who don't have
a care in the world
From every station
and orientation
the helpless, the hopeless
the young and the old

Come all believers
and dreamers and schemers
and come all you restless
just searching for home
Movers and shakers
and givers and takers
The happy, the sad
and the lost and alone

Come self-sufficient
with wearied ambition
and come those who feel
at the end of the road
Fiery debaters
and religion haters
Accusers, abusers
the hurt and ignored