

Thirst No More

JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL



Shadia Hrichi

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*"If anyone thirsts,
let him come to me and drink."*

John 7:37



About the Study

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink” - John 7:37

Welcome, friend. I am so glad you are here! The story of the Samaritan woman (often referred to as “the woman at the well”) has encouraged and inspired believers for generations. But before we dive into her story, I’d like to offer a brief overview of how this study is structured.

Unlike my 6-to-7-week in-depth Bible studies, this mini-Bible study is designed for those who are looking for an enjoyable, engaging Bible study that you can do at a leisurely pace, without the pressure of committing to daily homework for weeks or months at a time.

In fact, rather than dividing this study into weeks and days, I purposely designed this smaller study to include eight short segments.

Each segment is identified with a new topic heading, giving you the flexibility to end your time after any segment you choose. Similar to my full size Bible studies, I have included a few “*Pause to Ponder*” sections throughout the study; these are designed to provide you with a time of personal reflection. Use the space provided in this study (or, if you prefer, a journal or notebook) to respond to these questions.

Finally, at the end of the study, you will find a “*Your Turn*” section for personal application. These questions are important. While studying the Bible can stir our hearts and open our eyes to wonderful truths, only when we apply what we have learned will it have a lasting impact for God’s kingdom.

One quick note: some paraphrased versions of the Bible may be inadequate for the purposes of this study. Whenever possible, it is recommended that you complete the exercises using a Bible translation that adheres to a more literal translation, such as the English Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, New King James Version, or King James Version.

Before you begin, take a few moments to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you over the days ahead and to bless your commitment to this study. Then, as you open your Bible and your heart, begin each day with an eager expectation to meet the Lord through His Word.

Blessings,

Shadia Hrichi



Introduction

The Samaritan woman is the first person in the Bible's New Testament to whom Jesus directly reveals His identity as Messiah [1]. *That's quite significant!*

Perhaps you have heard of her or read her story. Or maybe this is the first time and you are curious to know more. Her story is found in the gospel of John chapter 4. She is simply identified as “a Samaritan woman,” meaning she was a mix of both Jewish and Gentile descent, a “half-breed,” despised in the minds of pious Jews at that time.

If that were not difficult enough, as we will soon discover, she was despised by much of her community as well. *The reason?* The woman had a *past*. She also had a *present*: she is a living with a man who is not her husband. That alone would be a shameful blight for a woman in that time and culture. But this woman had also been married—not just once, *but five times*.

Little did she know that in the silence of a deserted well, Jesus heard the cries of her broken heart. . . . and set out to meet her there.

1 LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG FACES

Perhaps, like me, you can relate to some of the heartache this woman must have endured. **Although the details are different, I know her story all too well.**

I was just twelve years old when my parents divorced. Sadly, it didn't take long before I began looking for love in all the wrong faces. I was fourteen when I carelessly gave myself to a nineteen-year-old man. I believed he loved me (as best as a fourteen-year-old understands love), only to discover he was dating several other girls at the same time.

A few months after we broke up, I met someone closer to my age. Less than a year later, I became pregnant by him and, feeling like I had no other choice, had an abortion. He moved away shortly after that. By the time I was seventeen, I had engaged in a string of brief relationships, trading sex for the short-lived illusion of being loved. Like bait devoured on a hook, each encounter left me more wounded and broken than the last. *When I finally met a man who was willing to stay, I never stopped to examine what I had caught.*

The abuse started as soon as we moved in together. In the beginning, there were incidents of physical abuse. In time, it transitioned to mostly emotional and mental abuse. He always said he was sorry and I always believed him. **It's a simple yet tragic truth: wounded people attract wounded people.** My idea of love was that the one who stayed with me must be the one who really loved me.

Perhaps the Samaritan woman thought the same way. I can only imagine how deeply this must grieve our Lord, who created women to be cherished, protected, and treated with tenderness and dignity. Instead, all too often, many of us relinquish pieces of our hearts again and again, desperately looking for love in all the wrong faces.



PAUSE TO PONDER

At one time or another, most of us have experienced a time when we placed our hope in a person rather than in God. ***Think of a time when you put your hope in a person rather than in God.***



What do you suppose you were looking for? Security? Love? Approval?

- *What was the result?* _____
- *What did you learn?* _____
- *What did you gain?* _____
- *What did you lose?* _____

Even if you were fortunate to avoid any negative outcome, would you make the same choice again if you had the chance? Explain.
