

THE BROKEN SAMARITAN

John 4:1-26



SYNOPSIS

P. Peter provided an exegesis of the longest recorded conversation of Jesus. Not necessarily private, this chat happened with a female Samaritan who was powerless and had likely experienced a lot of pain and loss. Jesus saw her brokenness and her sincerity as a truth-seeker, and he engaged with her accordingly. What if there is another way to interpret this woman's history, morality, and questions?



OUTLINE

1

SHE'S NOT WHO WE MIGHT THINK

Many of us think this woman was an immoral adulteress, but the culture of ancient arranged marriages could have rendered her powerless to make an advantageous match for herself with each subsequent marriage. Most likely, each marriage had ended in the death of her husbands (not divorce) because it was unlikely that the subsequent husband would have married her when another man in the same community did not want her. In living with a man who was not her husband, she was likely cohabiting as a concubine because she had nothing more to make her an attractive marriage prospect. Rather than condemn or pity her, Jesus saw her brokenness, pain, and loss and treated her with dignity.

Her testimony was believed by her townspeople, further reinforcing that she was not shunned by her society.

This was a conversation between Jesus and a respectful, intelligent, earnest seeker.

2

HER THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN GENUINE

Instead of an attempt to deflect Jesus' attention from her "immoral" behavior, what if the woman's questions about a place of worship was the cry of a heart hungry to confirm whether she was truly connecting with God?

What if, like Nathanael, she was seeking the fulfillment of what she knew about Israelite prophecy?

What if, like Mary, she was reaching for the one thing that was needed and felt that Jesus might be it?

An entire community was saved because Jesus took the time to converse and dignify the questions of a broken woman who was earnestly seeking God's response to her pain. She was rendered powerless by society. Jesus empowered her with truth and offered living water to her hopes that had dried up long ago. The cost of this conversation was worth it.

Worship was the point - of the Exodus, of this conversation, of our lives. Worship costs. Is it worth it to you?



kairos
church

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What did you think of P. Peter's interpretation of the woman's situation and backstory?

2

When was the last time you had a long conversation with Jesus/ What would you have to "pay" to have another?

3

What would it take for you to crave to worship God?

4

What questions do you have about worship/connecting with God? Which ones have you asked him directly?

5

What are you struggling with right now? What are you putting your faith in to deliver you from your current struggles?



BIG IDEA

The Samaritan woman knew about and wanted more from Jesus than we do today. She likely had a lot less information about Jesus than we do, but she had a genuine, full conversation with him. Are we willing to pay the cost of engaging with Jesus as fully and thoroughly as she did?

Worship was the point of her conversation with Jesus. Regardless of topic, the next time we converse at length with Jesus, worship will be the point of our conversation as well.

