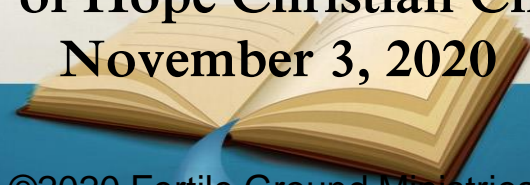


Refocusing our Perspective on a Familiar Passage

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Ray of Hope Christian Church
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John 4:1-42



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**We face trials because we
live in the world.**



**Our adversary
delights in stealing our joy,
killing our dreams and
destroying our happiness.**



Refocusing our Perspective



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Perspective

- a mental view or prospect
- the interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed
- a visible scene
- the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance



**Are you able to properly
discern the interrelation in
which things should be
viewed?**



**The Bible is a map, leading
and directing us in the way
that we should go.**



**The Bible is filled with stories
of real people;
living, breathing, moving and
active people.**



**Only between 5.5 and 8%
of the people named in the
Bible are women.**



**Almost 800,000 words
in the Bible.
About 10,000 words are
spoken by 86 women.**



44 are named and 42 unnamed



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**It is vital that we extract the
truth; the whole truth and
nothing but the truth from
this Bible!**



**Seeing yourself in the Bible
matters.**



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**This Samaritan woman is
often presented to us with
the warning label.**



**What if you and I are more
than how others view us?**



**“Now he had to go
through Samaria”**

John 4:4



Samaria was a region in the middle of Palestine, with Judea to the south and Galilee to the north.



**It was on mission for Jesus to
go through Samaria.**



“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

John 5:19



**“For I have come down from
heaven, not to do My own
will, but the will of Him
who sent Me.”**

John 6:38



“But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.”

John 14:31



**Jews, because of their hatred
for the Samaritans, normally
took the “other route” in order
to avoid Samaria.**



**Jesus seeks out and saves the
despised and outcasts ...
anyone who is lost!**



Samaritans

- Descended from the colonists planted in the land by the Assyrians
- Racially mixed and practiced a hybrid religion
- Kept the Sabbath, the Jewish feasts, and observed circumcision



**Jews thought Samaritans
were unclean.**



**Jesus blew up generations of
bigotry and hatred.**



“You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”

John 4:9



**Too many of us have
internalized the hatred
of the world.**



**All God's people have been
created in the image & likeness
of God and hence are worthy
of love and respect!**



**“If God is for us, who can be
against us?”**

Romans 8:31



**Racism and Xenophobia are
NOT the will of God.**

**What others despise,
Jesus loves!**



“Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to see him talking to a woman. But no one asked, “what do you want?” or “why are you talking with her?”

John 4:27



Jewish Piety

- Called men to avoid temptation of talking to women
- Called rabbis to avoid talking to women publicly
- Women were a hindrance to the study of the Torah



Jewish Piety

- **Women incapable of teaching**
- **Rabbis caused himself evil by prolonging conversation with women**



**Jesus is always willing, able
and ready to hear from us!**



“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

1 John 5:14



**“Then you will call on me and come
and pray to me, and I will listen
to you. You will seek me and
find me when you seek me
with all your heart.”**

Jeremiah 29:12-13



**“Call to me and I will answer you
and tell you great and
unsearchable things you do not
know.”**

Jeremiah 33:3



**Your sex and your gender are
not a barrier to your
relationship with God!**



Many have labeled her as:

- **Loose woman**
- **A prostitute**
- **A habitual divorcee**
- **A woman with a bad reputation**



“Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water”

John 4:6



**Women generally drew water
later in the day, when the
temperature was cooler.**



**Humans tend to think the
worst of people.**



“Go, call your husband and come back.”
“I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her,
“You are right when you say you have no husband.
The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man
you now have is not your husband. What you have
just said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said,
“I can see that you are a prophet.”

John 4:16-18



**All the scripture says is that
she had 5 husbands.**

**It says nothing about the
circumstances.**



**“The man you now have is
not your husband”**

≠ Tramp!



**Jesus did not condemn
this woman.**



Jesus had the first theological
discussion in the New
Testament
with
HER



“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Romans 8:34-35; 37



**Jesus asked about her
personal life, so that she
would know that Jesus knew
her and saw her, completely.**

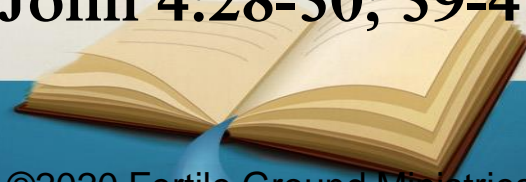


**Jesus didn't stop talking to
her until she believed he was
the Messiah.**



“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.”

John 4:28-30; 39-41



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



**This Samaritan woman went
back to her town and told it
all.**

**She passed on what she knew
and left the rest up to Jesus.**

**No one brought up her
“bad reputation.”**



Her transformation was so thorough that she looked nothing like her past.



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

2 Corinthians 6:17

**Pay attend to what the text
actually says.**



**Pay attention to what the text
“does not” say.**



**Pay attention to the lens of
the individuals involved in
the text, the teller of the story
and the writer of the text.**



**These things impact our
perspective on what the
scriptures means.**



What we take away impacts:

- How we see God
- How we see ourselves
- How we see others



Is Your Take Away:

- **Consistent with other scriptures?**
- **Consistent with who God has been in your life?**



Is Your Take Away:

- **Consistent with how God has revealed himself in history?**
- **Consistent with the character of Christ?**



**If any of these are not true,
your perspective may
be off.**



You may need to:

- Go back to the text to study more
- Look at other scriptures
- Pray about your takeaway
- Talk to a more seasoned believer



**Even if others hate you,
remember that God still
favors you!**



Discussion:

- Has an inaccurate presentation of a scripture ever impacted you personally? If so, how?
- How can you respond to someone attempting to use scripture to marginalize others?
- What scripture may you need to revisit in light of this study?

