



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: A Miraculous Makeover**

**Date: April 13, 2025**

**Scripture Text: John 4:1-42**

**Series: Believe - The Study of the Book of John**

### **Notes:**

We continue our study of the book of John as we pick up chapter 4. The Apostle John transitions from chapter 3 where Jesus had an encounter in Jerusalem with a Pharisee named Nicodemus to a Samaritan woman near the town of Sychar. Nicodemus was religious and moral; the Samaritan woman was rejected and immoral. Both needed a relationship with Jesus! The narrative picks up with Jesus leaving Judea (southern Palestine) and heading back to Galilee (northern Palestine). Sandwiched between Judea and Galilee was Samaria. The Jews saw Samaritans to be in a state of continual uncleanness. Most Jews who traveled between Judea and Galilee, would cross over to the east side of the Jordan River, travel through Gentile territory to avoid going through Samaria. Not so with Jesus. He chose the direct route, through Samaria and engaged the Samaritan woman, helping her see her need for a Savior. Let's look at this encounter in more detail.

#### **I. A Lonely Lady**

- Isolation (John 4:6b-7a)
  - Jesus sends His disciples into the city to get some food while He rests by the well. It is midday, the hottest part of the day. Most who came for water would come early in the morning or late in the day to avoid the heat.
    - Why would this woman be coming to fetch water during the hottest part of the day and not with the others when it is cooler?
    - How do you think she felt being judged by others?
    - What are ways we may judge others today?
    - How can we be more intentional about engaging others, especially those who may feel judged or rejected.
- Indignation (John 4:9)
  - As part of God's judgement against the disobedient northern kingdom of Israel, He sent the Assyrians in to conquer them. As was the custom of the Assyrians; to dissolve any sort of nationalism, they brought in people from other conquered lands to intermarry with the local inhabitants. This established the race of Samaritans, part Jew, part something else. The Jews of the southern kingdom of Judah did not allow Samaritans to worship at the temple so they built their own on Mount Gerizim. Over time bias, distrust and hate grew between the two nations.
    - How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' request for a drink? Why?
    - The woman's attitude was a reflection of the culture. How can the culture have a similar attitude toward the church?



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- How can the church give the culture justification for their attitude?
- How can a committed, Christ obedient church influence the culture for the good?
- Ignorant (John 4:10-14)
  - The woman was confusing the spiritual for the physical. Her focus was the here and now, where Jesus' focus was the eternal.
    - How does Jesus describe the water He has to offer?
    - What does it mean to be '*eternally minded*'?
    - How can you live life more eternally minded? How would that affect the way you live?

### **II. The Loving Lord**

- Intentional (John 4:4)
  - Jesus was intentional with the route He chose to return to Galilee, straight through Samaria. Even though most would not go the route He did, that did not deter Him.
    - What are examples of choices Christians make that are contrary to the culture.
    - How intentional are you when it comes to doing God's will over what may be more popular with those around you?
- Indiscriminate
  - Culturally, a Jewish man would not speak to a Samaritan woman.
    - What are examples of prejudice in the church that need to be dealt with?
    - What are characteristics of people you have a challenge accepting?
- Conversational (John 4:7)
  - Jesus initiated conversation with the woman
    - How comfortable are you to strike up a conversation with someone to share the gospel?
    - What is your discomfort? How can you get more comfortable with doing so?
- Confrontational (John 4:15-18)
  - Jesus recognized her sin. People are unable to experience salvation without repentance.
    - In an effort to experience salvation, how can people try to fit Jesus into their lifestyle instead of surrendering their life to Him?

### **III. A Lovely Lady (John 4:28-30, 39)**

- The Samaritan woman went from being insignificant, dirty, empty and lonely to significant, clean, full and loved. Why? She met Jesus!
  - Describe your own salvation experience. How did it affect you?
  - How could you encourage someone else who may find themselves in a similar situation as the Samaritan woman?