

Sunday, April 29th



- Where did Jesus meet the Samaritan Woman?
- Why was the woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her?
- True or false: the "living water" Jesus talks about is actually the Holy Spirit.

Praying Together:

Lord Jesus,
The Samaritan Woman recognized
You as our Saviour. Help us to
believe in You when it's difficult
to do so, so we may grow closer
to You, guided by the Holy Spirit,
the Living Water You sent into the
world. Amen.

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Apr. 29/18, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman (5th Sunday of Easter)

- 1. Where did Jesus meet the Samaritan Woman?
 - 1. A well
 - 2. The well was near a city in Samaria called Sychar. 19
 - 3. According to the Samaritan Woman, the well was built by their forefather, Jacob.²⁰
 - 4. Jesus meets her at the "sixth hour," which is noon by our standards. One must wonder why the woman was at the well to fetch water at a time when the sun is the highest in the sky and very hot.
 - 5. The well itself is significant because wells would be quite rare in the desert, as the *Orthodox Study Bible* states: "Wells were significant because of their rarity and their value in desert life. Therefore, wells came to symbolize life itself."²¹
- 2. Why was the woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her?
 - 1. The Samaritan and Jewish people were known enemies of each other.²²
 - 2. At this time, men also weren't supposed to speak directly to women, as it was contrary to the culture. Instead, men usually spoke to a woman's husband or to the nearest man she was associated with. In this case, however, the woman was alone, so Jesus made a very bold choice in speaking with her directly.
 - 3. Here again we see the dignity and equality Jesus bestows on women, as He reveals His true nature to this woman. We see this again when the women at the tomb are the first to learn that Jesus has risen from the dead. Not only that, but the woman at the well is not Jewish, which shows how the Gospel is meant not only for the Jewish people, but also for the Gentiles, namely all of us.
- 3. True or false: the "Living Water" Jesus talks about is actually the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. True.
 - 2. The term "living water" means running water, or water from a stream, rather than still water from a pool, ²³ which is what the Samaritan Woman think Jesus means.
 - 3. Jesus is actually speaking in a spiritual sense, however: "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The Holy Spirit, Who comes from the Father through Jesus Christ is our guide in relationship with the Holy Trinity, our God. It's through that relationship with the Holy Trinity that we have everlasting life.

¹⁹ John 4:5, Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1428

²⁰ John 4:6. 4:12, Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1428

²¹ Note on John 4:6,7, p. 1428

²² Orthodox Study Bible, Note on John 4:9, p. 1428.

²³ Orthodox Study Bible, Note on John 4:10-14, p. 1429.

²⁴ John 4:13-14, Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1429.