FINDING A TREASURE

John 4:5-24 · Douglas Felipack · May 17, 2026

The tired Jesus at the well, the woman searching the wrong sources, the water that becomes a spring

THE CENTRAL IDEA

“Sometimes we are looking for a hammer while there is a treasure buried in the backyard: that treasure is Jesus.”

The Samaritan woman was looking for water, relationships and the right place to worship: legitimate searches, but small next to what Jesus offered. He met her in an ordinary place, crossed the barriers everyone respected and offered living water. Whoever drinks it becomes a spring for others.

THE MESSAGE IN 3 MOVEMENTS

01 Real connections in ordinary places.

Jesus was tired (he knows what we live through), but tiredness didn't stop him from connecting. The well was an everyday place. Any ordinary place (the bakery, the park, work) can be where God wants to bring us close to someone.

02 Attention that breaks the bubble.

Jesus had every reason to ignore that woman: tiredness, nationality, religion. But he didn't see her as unclean; he saw someone loved by God. After some time in church, it is easy to sort people into "clean and unclean"; Jesus does the opposite.

03 The thirst only Christ satisfies.

Wealth, relationships, career, family: every other source leaves you thirsty again. Jesus touches the woman's conscience not to condemn her, but to give her life. And worship stops being a place: now we are the temple, and God is worshiped with all of life.

READING THE TEXT · JOHN 4:5-24

John 4:5-9 · A request at the well

Tired from the journey, Jesus sits by Jacob's well, in Sychar, at noon. A Samaritan woman comes to draw water, and he asks: "Will you give me a drink?" She is surprised: how can a Jew ask a Samaritan woman for water?

John 4:10-15 · Living water

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; the water Jesus gives becomes a spring welling up to eternal life. "Sir, give me this water."

John 4:16-24 · In spirit and in truth

"Go, call your husband." "I have no husband." Jesus reveals that she has had five and the man she has now is not her husband. She changes the subject to the right place to worship; Jesus answers that the time has come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

To open: tell about a time you searched hard for something and ended up finding something much better than you expected.

1. Jesus was tired and still stopped for a conversation that changed a life. Have tiredness and busyness become your excuse for not connecting with people? In which ordinary place in your routine might God want to use you?
2. Jesus saw the Samaritan woman not as unclean, but as someone loved by God. Is there a kind of person you, without noticing, treat as "unclean"? What would it look like to see them as Jesus saw her?
3. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." Which sources have you been drinking from, expecting satisfaction: work, relationships, recognition? What happens when they aren't enough?
4. Jesus touched the woman's story not to condemn her, but to give her life. Is there an area you avoid bringing to Jesus for fear of being confronted? What would change if you believed he comes to give life?

KEY PASSAGES

Hebrews 4:15, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses." The tired Jesus at the well knows our tiredness.

Jeremiah 2:13, "They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns." The same search as the Samaritan woman's, and ours.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... Therefore honor God with your bodies." Worship in spirit and in truth happens in all of life.

TO CLOSE

A step for this week. Pay attention to someone who crosses your path in the ordinary places of your week (bakery, work, gym) and start a real conversation. If God opens the door, tell them where you found living water.

Prayer. Thank Jesus that he meets us where we are, even in the middle of our sins, to give life. Ask him to satisfy the thirst no other source can satisfy and to make our lives a spring for the thirsty.

Watch the message again: point your phone camera here.