

Jesus & the Samaritan Woman

Monday, 6/22/09 – Read John 4:1-42

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: This week we are going to work our way through Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. Today we read the whole passage. Read through it quickly, just to get the flow of the narrative and the dialogue between Jesus and the woman. Maybe read it a couple times. What catches your attention? What intrigues you? What questions are raised? Jot down your initial observations.

Tuesday, 6/23/09 – Read John 4:1-15

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Notice how the woman is not yet connecting with Jesus. She’s thinking at one level – focusing on the practical everyday task of fetching water. Jesus is speaking from a different level altogether. What word would you use to describe the level from which Jesus is speaking? Spiritual? Divine? What word would you use? ... What do you think Jesus meant by “living water”? Use your imagination. Picture this living water IN you and gushing up. What feelings does your mental picture arouse?

Wednesday, 6/24/09 – Read John 4:16-22

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Now Jesus gets down to business with the woman: “Go call your husband.” ... Jesus didn’t have to be psychic to figure out some things about this woman. She came to the well at midday, when no one else would be there. Was she avoiding the other women -- and the gossip? And look back at the way she comes on to him in verse 9: What is it you want from me? ... Now notice in verse 19 how she changes the subject. She doesn’t want to talk about her marital status or her relationship(s) with men. Instead she talks about religion. ... Do you ever see people using religion as a distraction -- focusing on religion instead of on the “real issues.” Give an example.

Thursday, 6/25/09 – Read John 4:23-26

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: **God is spirit.** What do you make of that simple statement. If you’re like lots of people, you may have an intuitive sense of “spirit” -- and yet have a difficult time clearly defining “spirit.” For you, is spirit more like “spiritual” or “spirited.” Make some notes for yourself about your understanding of spirit. What would it be like to worship in spirit and in truth?

Friday, 6/26/09 – Read John 4:27-30

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: These verses echo verse 9 -- amazement that Jesus speaks with a woman. Women and men in that culture simply did not interact with one another outside the family. ... One of the startling things about Jesus was his respect for women and his readiness to engage them mentally and spiritually. ... When does your feeling about gender roles

limit or undermine your relationships? Can you begin to look at women and men the way Jesus did?

Saturday, 6/27/09 – Read John 4:31-38

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Verses 31-34 echo verses 10-15. The woman missed Jesus’ point because she was thinking at a different level. And now the disciples do the same thing. ... Does this ever happen to you? Do you ever have an inkling that something deeper is going on but you’re missing it because you’re so preoccupied with the practical necessities of life? Can you think of an example? ... What do you think that “something deeper” is?

Sunday, 6/28/09 – Read John 4:39-42

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: It does make a difference when we hear it for ourselves! People sharing their experience can be very helpful, but it only goes so far. ... *My Faith Journal* often asks: What is your experience? Because finally it is our own experience that draws us into relationship with God. ... When have you heard it for yourself? When have you felt you heard God speaking to you? ... Maybe it wasn’t audible. Maybe it wasn’t in so many words. But you had a sense that God was trying to get through to you. Describe that experience and jot down some notes for yourself.

My Faith Journal, June 21, 2009

God is Spirit

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.