



Who is Jesus: Woman at the Well

Recently I have been conflicted by Taylor Swift. What does she have to do with the Bible. Bear with me for a moment. Her first album is so vastly different than her latest. The two cannot be put together. Except one thing. It's her no matter the sound. To know Taylor means you will see her in all she does. It's the same with Jesus. The word Jesus is one thing. Yet, who is he? People think they know. I don't claim to know Jesus personally, but recently I think I'm closer. I see him in this writing.

Who is Jesus? If you read this little story of the woman at the well, it's curious. Curious because Jesus was walking through a vast area. He probably said to his disciples "Hey, let's go to a land mark." "I want to see a very cool place." On road trip I stumbled upon Custards last stand. It was unexpected and a very cool place. I think nothing within Jesus was unexpected. To get to where he was going, he made a bee line through to a very cool but an unexpecting place. A place Jews don't frequent. That is Jesus. Going through the unexpected.

Let's say the distance between his travels were 150 miles. Walking it would take time. The land is vast, yet he went straight for a well, Jacobs well. A famous place to the Jews. I feel that Jesus landed there right at the exact point of the day he wanted too. Of course, a woman was at the well. That is what women did in those days. They go there at that time of day too. This is Jesus. He arrived at an unexpected place at the right time and for the right reason.

Who is Jesus? He tells his disciples to go to town for food. In Samaria? It's not cool for Jews to be in Samaria. Yet, Jesus says "just go get me supper." In the meantime, a woman approaches the well. Jesus does a Jesus thing. He asks for water. Why wouldn't he, Jesus is at a well and it's hot. She looks at him and is astounded. He is clearly Jewish. What is more astounding is that Jesus asks her for water, she is a Samaritan? Jews don't acknowledge Samaritans half the time. If you knew Jesus then this is typical. He is doing the Jesus thing. He asks, he questions, yet he is clearly Jewish in an unexpected place.

What if you knew God? The dialogue between the woman and Jesus is playful. He offers her living water. Then He proceeds to tell her that she has five husbands (sleeps around). She tells him this is Jacobs well. She asks him if he is greater than Jacob. Then she calls Jesus a prophet. She is curious just as Jesus is curiously there. At the right place and right time with the right woman.

The woman believes she has pegged Jesus. He is Jewish. He is in the wrong place. He is a prophet. Jesus then questions her. Who are you woman? Who is your husband? Why do you long for something more? She responds that he is worshiping God in the wrong place. Go back to Jerusalem. Jesus is doing the Jesus thing. He responds with a flip. He says to her that one day we both will throw down places of worship. We will honor God everywhere.

This bold woman gives Jesus a theological lesson on worship and God. Jesus in return, gives her a lesson too. She says ahh, you're talking about the Christ savior to come in Jewish tradition. Jesus then boldly says "I am he." She must have stepped back. She must have gone silent. Then the disciples return with sandwiches or Kentucky fried chicken. She books it hurriedly back

home. The disciples are stunned that Jesus is talking to her. She is stunned by Jesus the so-called prophet. It's so Jesus like.

Who is Jesus? Is he a prophet? Is he God? Is he something else? Jesus incites riots. People kill, argue, and fight over that name. Yet, who is he? The woman thought she knew. He was a Jew. Then she thought she knew he was a prophet. Then she forgot the well, bucket, and all she was. She met the so-called Christ at the well. Not just any well, but the famous Jacobs well. She ran home to hide? No, to tell the people who this Jesus was. The people came running back. Why? Samaritans are Jewish. But she called him a Jew like she was not. These were outcast Jews. They knew the Bible well. She knew the Bible well. She was waiting for the Christ just as her fellow countrymen were. They booked it back to Jesus because her story smelled like God. It smelled like something more than just a Jew.

What it means?

Verse 42 of John 4 *“many believed that Jesus was the savior because of the testimony.”*

Who is Jesus? The Christ was a promise of a man to bring the Jews back to God. The savior would rescue them from the Romans. Oh, he would be amazing. He would be a prophet, savior, and a Jew. I love this story because we're all like the woman. We do what must be done. We work, we live, and we seek answers.

Jesus was just being real. He is bold. He is determined. He knows stuff. He is playful and truthful. Who is Jesus in this story. He did not judge. Did you see that? He told the truth about her. Did you see that? He placed himself in the right place at the right time. Did you see that? He knows stuff about our hidden lives. Did you notice that? Who is Jesus?

What it means is that we know less about Jesus and more about the name. We know less about him and more about others' opinions of him. We look at God a certain way. We consider Jesus to be a certain type. The woman at the well clearly had pegged Jesus a certain way by what he looked like, talked like, and acted like. In the end she was completely flustered. She forgot that her first impression was clearly wrong. All she knew now was that she was affected by that man at the well. Don't pretend to know Jesus without knowing him. I dare you to ask God to let you know him. To know Jesus. It might make you run and tell too.