

An Encounter With God

"The ONE Thing That Changes Everything" series- Part 01

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: You have your own late night talk show, who do you invite as your first guest (must be a living person)? Why?

Let's get on the same page - Hebrews 13:2 says: "Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!" Can you relate an instance where you thought you might have encountered an angel? Why did you feel this was a special encounter? Has there been a time where you might have been mistaken for an angel?

Book: John 4:4-26

Joh 4:4 He had to go through Samaria on the way.

Joh 4:5 Eventually He came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Joh 4:6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

Joh 4:7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give Me a drink."

Joh 4:8 He was alone at the time because His disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

Joh 4:9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are You asking me for a drink?"

Joh 4:10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask Me, and I would give you living water."

Joh 4:11 "But sir, You don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would You get this living water?"

Joh 4:12 And besides, do You think You're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can You offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Joh 4:13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again.

Joh 4:14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

Joh 4:15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

Joh 4:16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

Joh 4:17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—

Joh 4:18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

Joh 4:19 "Sir," the woman said, "You must be a prophet.

Joh 4:20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

Joh 4:21 Jesus replied, "Believe Me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

Joh 4:22 You Samaritans know very little about the One you worship, while we Jews know all about Him, for salvation comes through the Jews.

Joh 4:23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way.

Joh 4:24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Joh 4:25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us."

Joh 4:26 Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Let's get into the Word:

Looking at the record of this encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Women, let's discuss what we learn about God's pursuit to encounter each one of us:

What cultural challenges would Jesus face so that He might encounter this woman at the well?

What are some of the challenges that God faced when He reached out to you?

What common point of interest did Jesus use to begin a conversation with the Samaritan woman?

Can you identify a particular point of pain, or questioning, or circumstance that God was able to use to grab your attention?

How did Jesus go about creating a "thirst" within the woman for the gift of God?

Why did Jesus bring up her problem with husbands?

How necessary is a knowledge of personal sin when we encounter God?

When Jesus said a "time is coming", to what was He referring? What cost will God go to so as to secure our salvation?

Jesus had offered Himself to her as the One who could satisfy her soul's thirst and identify Himself as the Messiah. What were her possible choices in response?

Getting personal (with self)!

Do you have a new appreciation on how far God would go to give you eternal salvation? In what way?

In what ways might God use you to bring others to Christ?

In what ways can you excel in your pursuit of others to reach them for Christ?