

Why did go to the well when she did? Back in a pre-electric age, it was customary for women to go out early in the morning when milder temperatures made it easier to carry home the heavy jugs of water. At the well they would gather together and share the news they had heard. Some might even call it gossip.

Some have suggested that she may have wanted to avoid that gathering because she was keeping the rumor mill in business. That's speculation, though. Obtaining water is the reason the woman thought she was headed to the watering hole, but there was another reason she was being drawn there that day.

If the woman was shocked to see Jesus sitting there, she had to have been stupefied when He broke tradition and actually requested a drink of water from the unclean cup of an unclean person, and of the opposite sex to boot. After a brief exchange, Jesus told the woman that He was the Water of Life, and if she drank from the water which He had, she would never be thirsty again. Now, any normal woman would have thought herself blessed if she could skip going to the well...but to this woman who didn't want to be seen by those who judged her, Jesus' claim sounded just too good to be true. Understandably she said, "Sir, I'd sure like some of that water. That way I won't get thirsty, and I won't have to come back here." Jesus, having the woman's full attention, asks if He might visit with her husband.

That struck a nerve. The woman who had, up until now, shown an eagerness to converse with this Jewish stranger, very simply replied, "I have no husband." Hearing her reply, Jesus lets her in on His secret: as God's sinless Son, He knew far more about her than she could ever have imagined. His comment, very loosely paraphrased, would sound something like this, "Boy, lady, you are right on that one. You DON'T have a husband. Well, actually by God's count, you've had five husbands, and, lest you think you're getting away with anything ... the guy you're with right now ... he's not your husband either, is he?"

Knowing that something unusual was happening, the woman did what most people try to do... she tried to change the subject. She tried, but Jesus wouldn't let her. Instead He said, "Look, if a person is going to be saved, it's because he or she worships the true God. If a person is going to be saved, it's not going to

be because they go to the right building or have the right traditions. If a person is going to be saved, it is because they have faith in their hearts ... and not just faith in anything ... but faith in the right thing." It was just about then that Jesus' disciples showed up. The disciples didn't say anything, but this time of private interaction between the two was put to an end. The disciples had to have wondered to themselves why Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman. And the Samaritan woman, in her conviction that she had just met the Messiah, went back to town to tell the rest of the city what had happened to her.

And it is here, at this point, we stop. Jesus kept this divine appointment with the Samaritan woman at the well. And today, Jesus is keeping an appointment with you just like He did with her.

Would you like to know what is going to happen at this appointment? First, Jesus wants you to realize He knows you. He knows you better than you know yourself. Do you remember what He did with that Samaritan woman? He surprised her by revealing His complete and thorough knowledge of her. He knew why she had come at midday. He knew the Jews hated her because she was a Samaritan, and her own people had their doubts too, because she had lived a less than sterling life. Well, Jesus can, and does, do the same with each of us. Jesus knows you. He knows those private sins which you have spent so much time guarding from others. He knows the things of which you are ashamed; the things which you desperately hope will never see the light of day.

I know, you've tried to change, but you can't. That's why Jesus is keeping this appointment with you. He wants you to know that it doesn't have to be that way. He wants to tell you, as He told the Samaritan woman, that from this moment on your life can be changed. He can change it, and give you a whole new direction.

He has promised that if you want this new direction, your sins, the worst, the wildest, the weirdest sins you have ever done can be forgiven. Today Jesus is keeping an appointment with you.

He wants you to know that He has a love for you so deep that He would rather die than let you pay for your sins.

He knows you. He knows what you need. He knows you need to step down from the throne of your life, and let him be Lord. He knows you need to disown your sins, and let Him be Savior. He has kept His appointment with you. So what's next?