

## **At the Well at High Noon**

Scripture: John 4:5 – 15

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Today's scripture story is about a humble woman who approaches Jesus at a well at high noon. The well is a famous well called 'Jacob's Well'.

Now, I say she was a humble woman because a woman knew her place in those days. Culture at that time taught a woman to be humble. Especially this woman, she knew her place!

She approaches the well at high noon, in the heat of the day. This is not prime water-drawing time. Most upstanding women would come to the well to draw water in the coolness of the morning or early evening. All the good women would gather at the well in the morning or evening. All the good women would gather and talk with each other as they did their morning or evening task. The fact that this woman is at the well drawing water at high noon tells us a lot about her! It suggests that her place in society is even more removed than normal for women of that era. She is a social outcast, not enjoying the company of her peers at the well in the morning or evening.

Here is this woman in the heat of the day at Jacob's Well, and then along comes Jesus, and he has the audacity to request that she draw him water.

Her reaction is to bring Jesus up on the rules of edict – a Jewish man does not ask a Samaritan woman for anything, because Jews and Samaritans are not supposed to associate with each other.

Quickly their conversation grows into a theological discussion, and she sharply probes Jesus – What is this living water? – and – Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob? She is searching for something, and she may have found it in this man at the well at noon.

Are you at a well in your life searching for something? Have you come here today, in the heat of your life, searching for someone? Is Jesus making a request of you in your life that you are questioning? Are you seeking living water? Are you searching for something in your life?

Humbled by social status, but not self-effacing, this woman boldly crosses cultural boundaries to enter into conversation with Jesus. She draws Jesus out and learns who he is. She finds what she has been looking for – a Savior!

Today, let each of you humbly approach Jesus. Today, may each of you draw out and learn from Jesus like the woman at the well did in the heat of that day. She found her Savior, may you find your Savior today, also!

And when the disciples return to this scene, and they quickly try to put this woman back into her place, she becomes bolder still! She runs to town to tell all about this man she has met. She issues an invitation – Come and See!

You may find that when others see that you have encountered Jesus, they will try to put you in your place. They will test your faith, but you must become louder and bolder still!

Each of us, in some way, is the woman at the well at noon. Oh yes, we may wish to be like the other women at the well in the morning or evening, but each of us are the woman at the well at noon. In some way, each of us are a social outcast, and we are searching for something.

What makes you a social outcast? Is it something in your personal life? Is it something in community life? Or is just that your have done things like the woman at the well at noon did? Why are you a social outcast?

Let us come humbly to the well to approach Jesus. What questions do you have for Jesus? The woman at the well in our story had many questions, what are your questions?

May each of us boldly cross cultural boundaries to enter into service for our Lord and Savior. May each of us draw Jesus out in our lives and learn from him. May we become bolder still in our faith and tell all around us about Jesus. May each of us extend the invitation to those we meet each day – Come and See!

Let us pray:

O God, help us not to be bounded by convention, respectability, or status when it comes to witnessing to your love and power for wholeness and life. May we go to the well of living water at noon and encounter Jesus Christ. May we go to the well of living water in the heat of the day and in the heat of social pressures to discover the living water Jesus' provides. AMEN.