

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 9

The Week of December 8, 2024

The Savior We Long For
Meeting the Messiah
John 4:16-26

Advent is all about longing—waiting with hope and anticipation for God to fulfill His promises in Jesus. It’s also a season that reminds us how deeply we need a Savior in the middle of life’s messiness and brokenness.

We are jumping back into Jesus’ incredible conversation with the Samaritan woman. In this next part of their exchange, Jesus meets her right where she is—stepping gently into her struggles and speaking directly to her deepest needs. It’s an amazing picture of who Jesus is: a Savior who doesn’t wait for us to have it all together but comes to the weary, the thirsty, and the broken.

As we dig into this passage, let’s think about how it connects with our own lives. How does Jesus awaken your need for what He offers? What stirs in you when He talks about worship—does it stretch you, comfort you, or maybe both? How does His bold claim to be the Messiah speak to the deepest longings of your heart? Ultimately, this story isn’t just about the Samaritan woman; it’s about us.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Mark references to Jesus by placing a † over every mention of Jesus, including pronouns, and note His actions or statements.
- Underline verbs of action to track the flow of the narrative (e.g., *Go, call, worship*)
- Circle repeated terms like *spirit, truth, and Messiah*.
- Draw boxes around the statements made by the woman and double underline how Jesus responds.
- Place parenthesis around time references like *the hour is coming*, and consider their significance.
- Use a forward slash (/) to highlight contrasts (e.g., *neither...nor, spirit and truth*).
- Draw arrows to connect phrases that explain or elaborate the main points of the passage, such as Jesus’ reasoning about true worship.
- Write in the margin your personal thoughts or questions about Jesus’ self-revelation and its impact on the woman.

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we

know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

SUMMARIZE IN ONE SENTENCE WHAT THIS PASSAGE IS ABOUT:

(What is the writer talking about and what is he saying about what he is talking about?)

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. Why does Jesus tell the woman to call her husband (v.16)? What’s significant about the woman’s admission, *I have no husband* (v.17)?
2. How does Jesus’ knowledge of the woman’s life (v.18) reveal His identity?
3. What does the Samaritan woman’s question about worship (v.20) reveal about her understanding of God? Why does Jesus say ... *for salvation is from the Jews* (v.22)?
4. What does Jesus’ use of the phrase *the hour is coming* indicate about God’s timing and the fulfillment of His promises (v.23)?
5. How does Jesus’ declaration, *I who speak to you am he* (v.26) fulfill the woman’s hope?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. What does this passage teach us about addressing sin in our lives? What do you see in Jesus that should make you less defensive when the Holy Spirit convicts you of something?
2. In what ways does the woman's response to Jesus mirror our own journey towards Jesus?
3. Since Jesus has come, the geographical center of worship will no longer be important. Regarding worship, what is God looking for and what does that mean for you?
4. How can Jesus' revelation of Himself as Messiah encourage us in moments of doubt?
5. During Advent, in what ways does this story inspire you as you reflect on the salvation we have in Christ?

