

Scandalous! Outrageous! Impossible!
Pastor David Juhl
Our Savior, Momence

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." (John 4:13-15 ESV)

The account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well is both scandalous, yet full of hope.

The scandalous part is our Lord speaking to a Samaritan. John tells us a few verses before that, "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." Samaritans once were the Northern tribes of Israel. They had long since been conquered by the Assyrians and assimilated into them. Messiah would not come from them. A loyal and true Jew was taught to have nothing to do with them. They were lower than low.

What is more, Jesus is speaking to a woman. This woman has been married five times and is living out of wedlock with another man. The Jesus we often want to see and hear is a Jesus who wants nothing to do with people who don't "have their act together". Jesus should ignore the woman or loudly and forcefully condemn her for her way of life.

Yet Jesus does the scandalous thing and deals with the woman where she is. Jesus loves sinners, both Jew and Gentile. Our Lord uses water as a way to show this woman the hope she has in Him. Yes, this woman has hope both for forgiveness and for eternity. Her case is not impossible. Her sins, many though they are, are not unforgivable. The Living Water from Jesus Christ, water that wells up to eternal life, is for her as much as it is for the most pious Jew.

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All things are possible for our Savior, Jesus Christ. After all, He found you, made you His precious child by putting His Word in your life and washing you clean from sin in Baptism. You have a future because Jesus is your future. He put you in His future, His hope for eternity. Jesus should have nothing to do with you. After all, you aren't perfect. Your righteousness can never match His righteousness. So He gives you His righteousness as a gift through believing in Him. Now you are holy. Now you live because Jesus lives in you.

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True! Believable! Possible! All because Jesus found you, just like He found this Samaritan woman. He gives you living water, too. Drink from Him! Live in Him! Rejoice!