

ONE CONVERSATION AWAY:

How a Single Encounter with Jesus Can Change Your Life

The opening chapter of John's Gospel says that Jesus "came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe" (1:9), and Jesus himself said he came "to seek out and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). It's a good reminder that every Christian's mission should be to introduce as many unbelievers as possible to Jesus. The overwhelming majority of non-Christians are closer to Christ than you might think, and all it takes is one real encounter with Jesus to change everything. In this series we'll explore four unique conversations that Jesus had with everyday people - a young fisherman, a middle-aged mother, a religious elder, and a woman with a sordid past - and we'll see how one interaction with Jesus can change a life forever.

January 25, 2026 - The Woman at the Well

Can you remember a conversation you had with someone that changed your life forever? Describe what happened and why it had such a profound impact on you.

John 4:3-6 - Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

Why was it worth noting that Jesus went through *Samaria*? Why did devout Jews typically avoid it?



What's the significance (both biblical and archaeological) of *Jacob's Well*?

John 4:7-10 - When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

What social and religious norms was Jesus breaking by talking to this woman and asking her for water?

What does John imply by noting that the woman came to the well at noon?

John 4:11-15 - "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

What was *living water* in the first-century context?

What did Jesus mean when he offered the woman *living water*?

What earthly, temporary blessings do you pray for?

What do you think might change if you made a habit of seeking God's spiritual, eternal gifts in prayer?

John 4:16-19 - He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet..."

What was the reality of this woman's situation? Why was she coming to the well, all alone, at high noon?

When the _____ meets a _____, breakthrough is coming!

What "hard truths" about your life or your past do you need to acknowledge with a soft heart?

John 4:20-26 - Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The last stumbling blocks in the woman's way were her religious assumptions. **What false, religious assumptions and political preconceptions might be getting in the way of your breakthrough?**

Have you ever felt unworthy of God's love because of things you've done and choices you've made? Will you choose to believe your shame - or trust the One who will do - and has already done - everything to save you?



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