

JOHN 4

Encountering Jesus, Part 2

In the first encounter (John 3), Jesus explained the gospel – you must be born again. In the second encounter, Jesus shared the gospel – “The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14).

The Encounter

In chapter 3, the encounter with Jesus appeared at night. The Woman at the Well, on the other hand, encountered Jesus at the brightest part of the day. Both Nicodemus and the woman, however, are in spiritual darkness. Both will encounter Jesus as the Light of the World.

Much has been said about the woman’s circumstances, yet what the text emphasizes is her journey. She is thirsty both physically and spiritually. Jesus uses this metaphor to address her spiritual needs. “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” In other words, Jesus gives water of life. Those who drink from him will never be thirsty again (vs. 13-14).

The key to drinking from an eternal well is repentance and faith. Jesus confronts the woman’s iniquity showing that her life has been one of thirst hopping from one relationship to another. She wanted to debate religion with Jesus, but Jesus pointed her to himself, “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.” (vs. 25-26)

Thus, once again, we encounter the Divine Logos who gives Life by the means of the cross (Lamb). For Nicodemus, spiritual darkness came in the form of religiosity and tradition. But as he comes to the Light (his story remains unfinished), he will embrace Christ as Savior. The same is true for the Woman at the Well. Spiritual darkness for her came in the form of idolatry where she looked for satisfaction everywhere but Christ. But found life in Jesus.

That is the good news of Jesus.