

# JESUS

## 6. TWO INTERVIEWS: NICODEMUS & SAMARITAN WOMAN (John 3 and 4) STUDY AHEAD

The gospel writer John did something unique. He captured two interviews early in Jesus' ministry with two very different people. By placing these interviews up front in his gospel, he was helping readers to understand the heart of Jesus' message.

### Nicodemus – John 3

#### 1. John 3:1,2

- Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish High Council. What else do you learn about him later? John 7:45-52 & 19:38-42
- He gave us an “insider’s look” at what the Council thought about Jesus. What were they saying about Him?

#### 2. John 3:3,4

- What did Jesus very directly tell Nicodemus it would take for him to see God’s kingdom?
- Nicodemus was a moral (rule-keeping) Pharisee. How did he interpret Jesus’ words? What was he misunderstanding?

#### 3. John 3:5-8

- What two births did Jesus explain were necessary?
- How might v.6 help clarify v.5 concerning the 2 births?

#### 4. John 3:9-18

- Nicodemus was very confused. What O.T. story of Moses did Jesus point him to for a better understanding? See Numbers 21:4-9
- How did the O.T. story parallel what Nicodemus needed to do to be ‘birthed’ spiritually?
- John 3:16 is the most famous verse in the Bible. It is found in the context of Jesus’ discussion with Nicodemus. Read 3:16-18. What must each person do to experience ‘Eternal Life’? How do these verses summarize and clarify the entire discussion?

#### 5. John 3:19-21

- Jesus’ final words were about “light” and “darkness.” Nicodemus had come to Jesus *by night*. What was Jesus trying to get him to see?

***How has Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus most impacted you?***

## Samaritan Woman – John 4

Read John 4:1-42 for an overview of the entire encounter Jesus had with the woman from Sychar, Samaria. Note how much more thorough His conversation was with her whose name we don't even know. The far-reaching results are surprising!

### 1. John 4:7-9

- It was noon when the woman went to the ancient well where Jesus initiated His dialogue with her, asking for a drink. What cultural barrier did He cross that clearly surprised her?
- What other cultural barrier did Jesus cross? John 4:27

### 2. John 4:10-15

- v.10 What 2 issues did Jesus immediately bring up to her? What type of water did Jesus change the focus to?
- v.12 Her curiosity about the water He referred to led her to ask Him about who He was (greater than their famous ancestor Jacob and his son Joseph) (Read Genesis 33:19; Joshua 24:32 for background).
- v.13 Did Jesus answer her question?
- v.13,14 What did He want her to know about Himself and His offer?

### 3. John 4:16-18

- What area of her life did Jesus bring up to show her He knew her?
- What do you think she was most thirsty for?
- Did Jesus condemn her for seeking to quench her thirst? How does that encourage you?

### 4. John 4:19-26

- v.20 The woman changed the subject to deflect Jesus' insight into her. What subject did she question Him about?
- v.23,24 What 2 aspects of worship are most important to the Father?
- v.25,26 What truth did Jesus want her to know about Himself to worship correctly? How do we know she believed His claim?

### 5. John 4:27-30, 39, 42

- What aspect of Jesus did the woman excitedly tell her village about?
- How had His acceptance *and* challenge won her heart?
- How did her encounter impact the people in her village?

### 6. John 4:31-38

- Jesus' disciples urged Jesus to eat some food. Jesus used food to engage them in the topic of sowing and reaping a spiritual harvest.
- What did He teach them? What did they experience in Sychar?

***How has Jesus' encounter with this woman impacted you?***