



Twelve Sessions in the Gospel of John

Session Three:

**A Funny Thing Happened
on the Way to the Water Cooler**

4-17-03

No two encounters on the subject of faith are ever the same. The circumstances surrounding the discussion serve as a backdrop for the interchange, and the environment for a discourse on spiritual things is not unimportant. The mindset of both parties is a significant part of the formula as well: the chemistry of the people is contributory. The religious background of either or both can color the situation for good or for evil. Spiritual conversations are never identical.

In this session, we meet one of the most distinctive characters in all of John's gospel. She is, in some ways, a very unlikely candidate to make the charts. But, then again, when God is involved, just about anyone can qualify . . . maybe even you and me!

1. The Setting

John 4:1-6

- The history of the Samaritans
- Their conflict with the Jews

2. The Exchange

- Jesus initiated the conversation
John 4:7-8
- Jesus established their commonality
John 4:9-10

- Jesus expanded the context
John 4:11-14
- Jesus elicited her consent
John 4:15
- Jesus exposed her condition
John 4:16-18
- Jesus eliminated the confusion
John 4:19-24
- Jesus earned her commitment
John 4:25-26

3. The Outcome

- The woman believed
John 4:28-30
- Many Samaritans believed
John 4:39-40
- Many more Samaritans believed
John 4:41-42

Essence

"Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'"

John 4:13-14

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