

Come and See- Lessons from a Real Encounter with Jesus

Introduction

Every single day, we run into different people and go through ordinary situations. Most of these moments come and go without us thinking twice. But every now and then, you have an encounter that changes everything. You walk in as one person, and you walk out completely different.

In John chapter 4, a Samaritan woman goes to a local well around noon to do an ordinary chore: fetch water. She brings her water jar, her heavy past, and her personal story. She probably expected a quick, quiet trip. Instead, she met Jesus—and her whole life turned around.

The Bible does not give us her name. Unlike the Apostle Paul, whose famous story and big leadership title are written down for everyone to read, this woman remains unnamed. Why? So that any one of us who has ever felt ordinary, overlooked, or weighed down by past mistakes can see ourselves in her shoes.

1. Jesus Has One Mission: Salvation

Why did Jesus come to earth? He said it simply in Luke 19:10: *"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* Jesus came to rescue us, and His offer is open to anyone who believes in Him.

When we look back at our lives, some of us see a messy past. We see things we regret, things that make us feel ashamed, and secrets we hope nobody ever finds out. Others might look back and think, *"My past wasn't so bad. I was mostly a good person."* But the Bible reminds us in Romans 3:23 that every single one of us has fallen short. Whether our past looks messy or respectable, we all need the exact same Savior.

Look at how Jesus treats this woman. He knew her entire history. He knew she had been married five times and was currently living with a man who was not her husband. Yet Jesus did not walk away from her. He did not judge her or act superior. Instead, He started a conversation, offered her living water, and showed her who He truly was.

It is the same with Paul. Before he met Christ, Paul was a violent man who hurt and arrested Christians. Humanly speaking, people thought he was far too gone to be saved. But when Jesus met him on the road, everything changed. The man who tried to destroy the church became the man who helped build it.

Here is the truth: Your past is part of your story, but it does not get the final word—Jesus does. No past is too messy for Him to clean up, and no life is good enough to do without Him.

This should also change how we treat others. Stop putting people into boxes or deciding that someone will never change. Our job is simply to share Jesus; His job is to save and heal hearts.

2. Without Jesus, We Are Spiritually Blind

In John 4:10, Jesus tells the woman: *"If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."*

Her problem at that moment was not that help was missing. God's gift was standing right in front of her! But she could only see what was in front of her physical eyes. She looked at Jesus and said, *"Sir, you don't even have a bucket, and this well is deep. Where are you going to get this living water?"* From a human point of view, she thought she had the advantage because she had the jar and access to the well, while Jesus had nothing.

Don't we do the exact same thing? We look at life using human math. We focus on our degrees, money, family background, or job titles. Or on the flip side, we focus on our lack of connections, lack of money, or limited background and say, *"There is no way this can work out for me."*

There is nothing wrong with being thankful for our skills, education, or jobs. But those things are not the whole picture. Watch how this woman's eyes open step-by-step as she talks with Jesus:

- First, she sees Him as just "**a Jewish man**" (v. 9).
- Then, she calls Him "**Sir**" and wonders if He is greater than Jacob (vv. 11–12).
- After He gently speaks about her private life, she says, "**I see that you are a prophet**" (v. 19).
- Finally, she discovers that He is **the Messiah**—the Savior God promised to send (vv. 25–26).

Jesus didn't change during the conversation, but her understanding of Him did. That is why Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18 that *"the eyes of your heart may be opened."* We need God to help us see beyond our visible circumstances so we can realize what we truly have in Christ.

3. Jesus Changes Our Perspective and Purpose

When Jesus opens your eyes, it changes how you live. You start seeing Jesus differently, yourself differently, your past differently, and the people around you differently.

Notice what the woman does next in John 4:28: she **left her water jar behind** and ran back to her town. She had come to the well to fetch water—a normal and necessary task. But once she met Jesus, something much bigger captured her heart. She came carrying a bucket; she left carrying a message.

What does leaving your water jar look like today? It doesn't mean you quit your job or walk away from your family responsibilities. It means those things are no longer the most important thing in your life:

- Your job isn't just about earning money anymore.

- Your school isn't just about getting a degree.
- Your life now serves a higher purpose.

Notice where she goes: right back to her village, to the very people who knew her history. Her past was no longer a source of shame that made her hide. It became her story of grace. She told everyone: *"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?"*

Where is your village? Your village is your family, your workplace, your university, your neighborhood, or your circle of friends. You don't need to cross the ocean or go to seminary to make a difference. You don't need to know every answer in the Bible. You just need to tell people what Jesus has done for you and invite them to *"Come and see."*

Conclusion: The Invitation — Come and See

The Samaritan woman came to the well for water, but she left having encountered Jesus. She became a signpost pointing her town to Him. Her testimony brought people to Jesus, and after hearing Him for themselves, many more believed.

Today, as we close, I want us to respond directly to the three lessons we have learned:

1. **Jesus came to seek and save the lost.** Have you personally received the gift of salvation, or have you simply been sitting around Christianity? Remember, no past is too messy for Jesus, and no life is good enough without Him. Stop putting people in boxes; Jesus still saves for real.
2. **Without Jesus, we are spiritually blind.** Are you looking only at what is possible in the natural—your degrees, your money, or your limitations? Let our prayer today be: *"Lord, open the eyes of my heart. Help me see what I have in Christ."*

3. **Jesus changes our perspective and our purpose.** What does leaving your water jar look like for you today? What responsibilities, plans, or resources is Jesus asking you to place under His higher purpose?

And who is your village? Look around you. Your family, your colleagues, your friends, and your neighbors are the very people God has placed in your life to hear your story. You don't need all the answers. You only need to share what Jesus has done for you.

Today, the invitation is simple:

- **Come and see** Jesus for yourself.
- Let Him save you.
- Let Him open your eyes.
- Let Him change your perspective and your purpose.

And then go back to your village and tell somebody: "**Come and see.**"