



John 4:4-42; Acts 8:1

"If you really knew what I have done, you wouldn't want me in your group!"

If there ever were a woman who would see herself as unfit to work for a holy and just God, it would be the Samaritan woman, the woman Jesus met at the well. There was no question that her lifestyle was sinful and contrary to the way God would want her to live. Just by virtue of her being Samaritan, she was considered contemptible and reproachful to the Jews. Yet, Jesus brings life to this woman, and she, in turn, brings her countrymen to Jesus.

This account begins with Jesus traveling through Samaria on His way to Galilee. Jesus is tired and sits by the well while His disciples go to the village to buy food. The Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water, and Jesus asks her for a drink. This surprises her, and she asks Jesus why He is asking her, since she is a Samaritan woman and He is a Jew. Jesus continues to talk to her and tells her He would give her living water. This is of great interest to her, since Jesus tells her that whoever drinks of this water will never be thirsty again. She thinks having this kind of water would be wonderful, perhaps thinking of all the times she had to go to the well in the heat of the day. Then Jesus tells her to go and call her husband, to which she responds, "I have no husband." Jesus tells her that what she says is true, continues to tell her that the man she is living with is not her husband, and then says that she has had five husbands. She correctly perceives Him to be a prophet, and Jesus replies that He is the Promised Messiah, the One who is the Living Water.

At this point, she returns to the village and tells the people there, *"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"* John 4:29 NIV The villagers come with her to see Jesus. They listen to Jesus' words of life. They invite Jesus to stay longer, and He stays with them two more days. The Bible continues, *And because of His words many more became believers.* John 4:41 NIV The villagers say to the woman, *"We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."* John 4:42 NIV

Why God used this sinful woman to bring an entire village to Him is not clear. God works in mysterious ways, using people He chooses to accomplish great things for Him. What is clear is that this woman did not let anything stand in her way of bringing people to Jesus. Her enthusiasm in proclaiming Him to her people was remarkable. The Holy Spirit did the rest. Several years ago, the buzz-word among congregations who sought growth was "networking." The idea was to have people reach out within their circles of friendship and bring the unchurched people they associated with to church. It was very hard for those who only knew church people to become good networkers. If, however, you associated with people who had no church connection, it was easier. The Samaritan woman was the perfect networker. She had a circle of acquaintances who did not know the Lord, and she simply witnessed to the Lord's presence among them.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial system and for providing a clear audit trail. The document also highlights the need for transparency and accountability in all financial dealings.

In the second part, the focus shifts to the role of the auditor in verifying the accuracy of the records. The auditor is responsible for conducting a thorough examination of the books and records to ensure that they are free from errors and fraud. This process involves a detailed review of all transactions and a comparison of the recorded amounts with the actual amounts.

The third part of the document addresses the issue of internal controls. It explains that internal controls are a set of policies and procedures designed to prevent and detect errors and fraud. These controls are essential for ensuring the reliability of the financial information and for protecting the assets of the organization.

The final part of the document discusses the importance of regular communication and reporting. It states that management should provide regular updates to the board of directors and other stakeholders on the financial performance of the organization. This communication should include a detailed analysis of the financial results and a discussion of the factors that have influenced the performance.

One must wonder whether the men of the village, knowing her reputation, went to see Jesus with feelings of great cynicism and doubt. But they were moved to just "come and see," and God made something great happen. It is interesting to note here that the Word of God continued to spread to Samaria following the stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the early Christian Church. Acts 8:1 Isn't it awesome to think that these displaced believers may have been welcomed by the very families who came to Christ through this woman?

There are many people in the world today who have left behind lifestyles of which they are ashamed. Things of the past, once confessed to our Saviour, are forgiven and must be left behind. While God has the marvelous power to forgive and then forget, we sinners with our human frailties often fail in that area. Forgiving outwardly, but not forgetting, is a great impediment to those seeking to do God's work. We must constantly strive to reach out and bring in those who feel they are "not good enough" to do God's work.

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Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, You came to save sinners. You saved each one of us. Help us to reach out to those who may feel unworthy to serve You. Give us the power to proclaim Your love and forgiveness to them so that they may serve You with great joy! Amen.

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN - *Written by* Lu Garchow

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The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and the role of the researcher in this process. The second part of the paper presents the methodology used in the study, including the data collection methods and the analysis techniques. The third part of the paper discusses the results of the study and the conclusions drawn from the data. The final part of the paper provides a summary of the findings and suggests areas for further research.

The study was conducted in a systematic and rigorous manner, following the principles of scientific research. The data was collected from a large sample of participants, and the results were analyzed using advanced statistical techniques. The findings of the study are presented in a clear and concise manner, and the conclusions are based on the evidence gathered. The study has important implications for the field and provides valuable insights into the subject matter.

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