



# International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary

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## Coming to Know Jesus

### John 4:30-42

*And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world (John 4:42—KJV).*

*And they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world” (John 4:42—NASB).*

*They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world” (John 4:42—NRSV).*

By studying the entire story about Jesus and the Samaritan woman, we learn many things about Jesus. First, unlike both Jews and Samaritans, Jesus was not racially prejudiced. He asked to drink from a water jar touched by a Samaritan. Second, unlike many Jews of His day, Jesus was not prejudiced against women. Jesus talked with women alone or in a crowd. Third, after the woman called Jesus a prophet, He did not deny her observation but wanted her to learn more truths about Him. Fourth, when the woman said that she knew the Messiah was coming and that He would proclaim all things to them, for the first time Jesus directly proclaimed that He was the Messiah. Fifth, after Jesus talked with her specifically about her sins and shared some other truths with her, she did not become gloomy and guilt ridden. Rather, Jesus totally transformed her. She knew her sins were forgiven, she was joyful, for the first time she was free from her addiction to sin, she was no longer withdrawn, and she

enjoyed “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” Sixth, the truths Jesus taught her led her to rush back to town and tell the townspeople about Jesus, and her new life inspired the townspeople to want to meet Jesus too. Seventh, by the end of the day, many believed in Jesus because of her testimony and many more believed after they heard Jesus teach. They came to know that Jesus “is truly the Savior of the world.”

## Thinking Further

1. Knowing a crowd was coming soon, why do you think Jesus did not make some food out of thin air to eat?
2. What is the spiritual food that Jesus ate? Can or should His followers eat this same food?
3. What are two fields ripe for harvesting that the disciples might have seen?
4. How do Christians normally sow and reap a harvest? Why can both sowing and reaping be times of rejoicing for Christians?
5. Why did the villagers first come to believe in Jesus? After talking to Jesus, what did they come to know about Jesus?

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