

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places? Let Jesus Show You Where to Look! - By Karen Sue Nyquist



1. **Some of us didn't receive healthy love from our parents.** Some parents aren't good role models on how to give and receive love. Maybe ours didn't love us at all, or mentally and physically abused us. Perhaps, they rejected us, or we had to "earn their love" by doing or not doing things. They wounded us, and we were left hurt, starving for love and happiness, feeling insignificant, lonely, powerless, sad, angry, maybe even vengeful. We grew up desperate for comfort, love, happiness, significance, connection with others, peace of mind, and power to protect ourselves from future hurts.

2. **Desperation can lead us to do anything to get our needs met, to fill that emptiness.** We can even look for love in all the wrong places. This can lead to addictions: sex, many unhealthy relationships, pornography, food, drugs, alcohol, pleasure, controlling others, wallowing in depression, angry outbursts, seeking wealth and possessions, etc. But nothing we do really satisfies. Our thirst is not met and hope for a meaningful relationship fades.

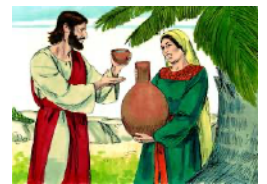
3. **This is not the life God wants us to have.** We have to realize we're looking for love and our other unfulfilled needs in all the wrong places. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, ... more abundantly" (John 10:10). God is the "God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

4. **The Bible shows us individuals who, while searching for love, made painful mistakes.** David had numerous wives and concubines, but still committed adultery (2nd Samuel 11). - **Multiple relationships do not satisfy.** - Even though adultery was a capital offense, one woman was so desperate for love that she did it anyway. What did Jesus do? "And Jesus said to her, 'Neither do I condemn you; **go and sin no more**'" (John 8:12). - **He knows that adultery, any sin, does not satisfy and leads to heartache.** - One man raped a woman then asked to marry her (Genesis 34). One woman acted as a prostitute (Genesis 38). Samson married an unbeliever (Judges 14). Couples who had premarital sex (Exodus 22:16-17, 1 Corinthians 7:2, 8-9) or same sex relationships (1 Cor. 6:9-11).



5. **The Woman at the Well - What Jesus Offers to All Who are Thirsty for Love - John 4:3-30, 39-42 - a)** "He (*Jesus*) left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria." - **Why did Jesus go through Samaria? Jews traveled around it, avoiding it altogether. Jesus went there to help a woman in need, a woman desperate for love.** - "So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour (*noon*). A woman of Samaria came to draw water." - **She was rejected by the other women, who all came in the morning for water.** - "Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.' For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?' For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." - Because of racism and religious differences, Jews and Samaritans avoided interacting with each other. **No matter our race or religion, Jesus looks at each of us with love.**

b) "Jesus answered and said to her, '**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**'" - **Jesus has something that would satisfy this woman's thirst and ours!** - "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?'" - **She saw that Jesus was showing real interest in her, just as He does for each of us; so she boldly asked how can He give her something miraculous.** - "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**' The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.'" - **She sees Jesus can help her, is ready to receive from Him, and asks for His help. We can do the same, because He sincerely loves us and can help us.**



c) "Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for

you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” - **Jesus shows her He knows her pain and rejection that she’s experienced, being divorced five times, and currently being in a relationship where the man doesn’t even love her enough to marry her.** Each time she was divorced, in desperation, she sought out another relationship that was doomed to fail. **She was seeking love in the wrong places.** Jesus knows our pain and rejections, and all we’ve done trying to ease that pain and to fill that emptiness. He knows the sins and things we’ve done that were wrong. **Yet, He doesn’t reject us, but wants to help us.** He can even lead us to the right person for us, at the right time.

d) “The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. - **Jesus will show us when we are in religions or beliefs that are wrong.** - “But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” - **Jesus knew what she needed and what we need. When we truly worship God, Who is a loving Father, it’s like we are drinking in His love, life, hope, peace, joy, healing, whatever we need. Living a life of worshipping God, washes out the pain and satisfies our thirsts.** “The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am *He*.’” - **Because of His acceptance, she feels free to speak openly with Him. We can feel that same freedom; tell Him anything.**

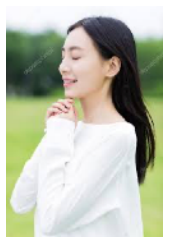


e) “And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that **He talked with a woman**; yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why are You talking with her?’” - **Most religious teachers did not have time for women, so Jesus’ disciples were surprised. Jesus cares equally for men and women.** - “The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city and came to Him.” - **Already, Jesus has changed her heart so she could look past her needs to the needs of those who had hurt and rejected her. She runs to tell them** - “And



many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I ever did’....” - **She shares what Jesus did for her.** - “So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and **we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.**” - Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me**” (John 14:6).

6. **Are you ready look to God for love and to worship Him? Are you ready to believe in Jesus as Your Lord and Savior?** Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 7:37). He also said, “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29). **Suggested Prayer** - “Jesus, I thank You that You know and love me as I am. I repent of my sins, all that I’ve done wrong. Help me live a life that is pleasing to You. You are the Son of God, the Messiah, be my Lord and Savior. Help me worship God and have all my pains healed and my thirsts satisfied. I will go to church and read the Bible to learn more about You. In Jesus’ Name, I pray. Amen!” - Reach out to us!



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