

Perfect For Me

Key Verse: "Then Jesus declared, 'I who speak to you am he' (John 4:26)"

The Samaritan woman was longing for someone she could truly rely on. As a woman she wanted someone to fill her every need and desire. She did what she thought was best in order to find the perfect one by searching over and over. After having 5 husbands, she probably wondered, "Where is he? Where is this perfect man?" Because of her desperate searching, she became a ridiculed, sorrowful woman who was condemned by society. As a Samaritan, she wanted someone to explain salvation to her. She wanted to know her true object of worship-and there could only be one. It seems beyond perfect that Jesus says to the Samaritan woman at that very moment, "I who speak to you am he." What a mind-blowing shock, yet ultimate relief this must have been for her. He answered her questions on salvation just by being there, and just by being there, she knew where her every need and desire could be fulfilled: right in front of her and in her heart. Jesus was her true object of worship and it was revealed to her in a face to face encounter. His very presence expressed the truth that despite her past, things were going to work out because just by being there, he was fulfilling what he came to do. In the short time he was with the Samaritan woman, she received comfort because he understood her; she was forgiven by his understanding, and he saved her from having to turn back to her old ways. In all this, the woman must have recognized that this man was set apart from the others, which was the same truth that was waiting for me to accept as well.

Jesus did not judge the Samaritan woman, instead he understood her. I used to think, how could Jesus have empathy for us? He never had to deal with any of these emotions! But the thing is, *He did*. He humbled himself to become human so that He could understand what we go through. He was the perfect combination of both God and man. WOW. Jesus had the same feelings we did, so why not turn to Him like I would talk to my friends? Like the Samaritan woman, Jesus understood me and my needs before I understood myself. He felt for me, when my heart was broken by a sudden breakup and when I was feeling used.

Like the Samaritan woman my true desire was for someone who understood my every need and I too was looking towards men to fill my inner desire to be loved and cared for. It wasn't necessarily the physical attention that I *really* wanted, but the emotional connection with a guy who would sacrifice everything for me, was what I yearned for. I had dated two different guys in high school and into college, but neither of them could give me what I really needed. Sure they said they loved me and they were certainly there for me, but I needed something that neither of them could fulfill. Despite all the things going on around me, there was still emptiness inside of me.

So I kept searching for the right guy. I was always in the Church, so I thought I had already found God and was seeking to know Him. The difference is that I didn't know Him personally and didn't even think to look for Him in that intimate sort of way. I was caught up in the emotions of finding a guy and constantly being disappointed. One night, I wanted to have a bible study with my boyfriend and even though he was trying,

he still couldn't understand the passion that was stirring inside of me. I was seeking Truth and I wanted someone to do that with. So I have to admit that just like the Samaritan woman, my expectations were pretty high. But also like the Samaritan woman, I settled for less. Then I realized, Why should I have to settle when there is a King waiting to be mine? It was like I was closing Jesus off to the aspect of my life where I needed Him most. I couldn't deny it any longer: there was a cross-shaped-hole in my heart that could only be filled by Jesus. And one night during a worship service, we were singing a song that is called, "He is perfect for me." I let the lyrics of this song sink into my soul and I felt the Love of God like I never had before. In his own character, Jesus is the perfect man to fill up my heart and in all my imperfection, he still yearns for me like I yearn for him. I broke down in tears and by being vulnerable to Him, I was overcome with Love- One that was an everlasting, chain-breaking gift from God that was given specifically to me. The King of the Universe wanted me to come to Him. *Me*.

At the high point of Jesus' time with the Samaritan, Jesus reveals who He is to her. Now, if you could please, close your eyes and listen. Imagine- that your whole life you never knew who your father was. One day, you run into an older looking man at the grocery store, who you've seen before, and you realize that he reminds you of your uncle. He strikes up a conversation with you, and you both have a good talk. So good, in fact, that you feel *changed* by this man's presence. Eventually, he reveals that he knows your uncle whom he resembles and suddenly everything clicks: This man is your true Father and you not only know it, but feel it deep in your heart. This is what happened to me that night in worship: (You may open your eyes) I thought I knew who God was and understood what he did for me by dying on the cross, but meeting Him that night was like a face-to-face reunion that I knew not only in my head, but with my whole being. The Spring of Water that Jesus talked about in this story was beginning to well up inside of me just like He promised the Samaritan woman, and I knew I never had to be thirsty again.

Ultimately, in order for the Samaritan woman to meet Jesus, she needed to get over her past and come to him vulnerably and ready to move forward. For me, I needed to get over my desires of the flesh in order to welcome Jesus fully into my life. Only a Savior could save me from this vice, and admitting this was the best thing that's ever happened to me. Of course, I still struggle with earthly desires sometimes, but all I need to do is call on Jesus and His love saves me every time. Now I am comforted by knowing that if I just keep seeking God and his righteousness, like it says in the Bible, "everything else will be given to you." I know that God will bring the right man to me as long as I am seeking Him first. I once read that Jesus is the relationship expert. The Samaritan woman knew that, I know that, and God wants all of us to know that.

The Samaritan woman's meeting with Jesus became evidence to others' of God's love for all of us. As it says in verse 30, the woman went back and claimed that she saw the Christ, and consequently, they "came out of the town and made their way towards him." My only hope is that my personal testimony will call others to Him as well, to receive a quenching of their thirst and an outpouring of His perfect love.

I pray that God may use me as he used the Samaritan woman to bring people to Jesus and for building his Kingdom.

ONE WORD: Jesus is perfect for me