

Chain Reaction: The Woman at the Well

By Joy Bolton

Cast: Woman, Townsperson

This skit is a telling of the story of the Woman at the Well based on John 4. It is told from the perspective of the woman and from a townsperson who came to faith in Christ because of her testimony. It is designed to introduce the scripture focus and chain reaction theme of the 2011 Season of Prayer for State Missions. The two characters do not interact with each other, but rather tell the story to the congregation from their perspectives. They may dress in biblical costume if desired.

Townsperson: I am so excited. Today I met the Messiah.

Woman: I am so excited. Today I met the Messiah.

Townsperson: It was totally unexpected. And I never would have expected to hear this news from that woman.

Woman: It was totally unexpected. I went to the well at the sixth hour, about noon, as was my custom. I always go at noon to avoid the other women who look down on me.

Townsperson: It all started at the well about noon. There is a woman that the other women despise because of her reputation with men.

Woman: To my surprise, there was someone else at the well – a Jewish man that I did not recognize. He asked me for a drink. I told him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”

Townsperson: The woman we all despised met a man at the well. But he was different. Instead of taking advantage of her, he simply asked her for a drink. When she protested, he said: “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

Woman: To my surprise, the man spoke of living water. Living water? How can water have life? I soon found out. I asked him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Townsperson: I can only imagine her surprise when the Messiah said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Woman: Though I didn’t understand it, I wanted the living water. So I said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Townsperson: (With a sneer) The Messiah saw right though her. He knew the truth and said: “Go, call your husband and come back.” Of course she had no husband to call, just a live-in. In fact, the Messiah told her she had had five “husbands” and the man she lives with wasn’t her “husband” either.

Woman: I couldn’t hide anything from this man. I told him that I didn’t have a husband. He already knew and yet he spoke to me in kindness. I could see that he was a prophet so I asked him an age-old question about where we should worship – on the mountain or in Jerusalem.

Townsperson: The Messiah talked to this woman and answered her questions. He explained what the Scriptures teach and told her that a time is coming when “true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” He told her that “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Woman: When he started explaining about worship, I remembered that I was always taught that the Messiah called Christ was coming and that when He came, would explain everything to us. When I asked him about this, he simply declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

Townsperson: The woman ran back to town. She didn’t even bring her water jar back with her. To our amazement, she ran through town telling everyone, “He told me everything I ever did.” Well we all knew the kinds of things she had done, so for her to be running through town telling it herself meant something extraordinary had happened.

Woman: I ran back to town to tell everyone about the Messiah. They were surprised at what I told them, so they ran out to the well to see this man. Jesus stayed for two more days, teaching us about God and Himself. My life was changed that day. But I wasn’t the only one. Because of the Messiah’s words, many became believers.

Townsperson: The woman we all despised was changed that day. But she wasn’t the only one. The Messiah set off a chain reaction when He met her at the well. Later we told her, “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 Savior of the world.”

Woman: Quite a chain reaction!

Townsperson: It can’t stop now! Who will you go tell?