

"Go and bring your husband"

Five Husbands, the woman at the well
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Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

This is more of an observation than a study about what we can actually glean from this particular woman of whom little information is given.

Her situation cannot be used for much evidence other than the fact that Jesus did recognize that she had actually been married 5 times and the man she was presently with was not her husband.

Other than that, the most I think that can be drawn from this particular case is that it stands against the idea that the divorce mentioned in Deut 24:1-4 is about a woman found to not be a virgin when she has first come together with her husband.

Another issue is her claim to be a descendant of Jacob. Which isn't relevant to any point here.

Supporting Evidence

How is it that Jesus could acknowledge the woman's 5 husbands if one could only divorce for illicit betrothal sex ?

This would mean that this woman had literally married, then during her wedding night was found to not be a virgin and rejected/divorced by the man. Not just once....not twice...Not even three times....or even FOUR times, but FIVE separate times !

Given that Deut 22 shows that the man could have had her put to death, this woman would be taking a huge risk of death in marrying man after man and supposedly lying about her virginity.

Not to mention that after the first round of marriage and rejection her father would KNOW that she was not a virgin now.

It's fairly easily deduced that no father is going to risk his daughter and his own reputation trying to pawn off a non-virgin AS a virgin to 4 other men.

Jesus acknowledging that the woman at the well had had five husbands fairly conclusively shows that He DID agree that they WERE actually her husbands (especially when He compares them to the man she currently is with who is not her husband).

IF Deuteronomy 24:1-3 WERE about her not being found a virgin and *IF* this woman was not put away in such a manner, then Jesus could not acknowledge that she even had more than one husband to begin with as her 'divorces' would not have been valid.

Given the details it seems unlikely to downright impossible that Deut 24:1-4 is about the husband finding his new wife to not be a virgin on the night he was first with her.

And he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a **woman of Samaria** to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the **woman of Samaria** unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for **the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.**

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband**: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; 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. Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

(Joh 4:4-43 KJV)