

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“If you knew the gift of God . . . you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”
—John 4:10*

I don’t know how to describe severe loneliness, other than to say that it is like a dark chill that cuts through your heart. I remember the time when I was starting my postgraduate studies in Europe and had just arrived in a city where I would be meeting with my dissertation supervisor. I didn’t know anyone in that town and I was planning to spend many days there to study and research. I felt overwhelmed by so many things: the academic tasks, the unfamiliar place, the lack of human contact, and the fact that I didn’t know a single person in that area. I will never forget the dark loneliness I felt and the relief I found for it in God’s acceptance and intimate knowledge of my soul.

The Samaritan woman that Jesus encountered in John 4 was all alone. She was surrounded by people, yet had no real female friends that would risk being seen with her at the well. In Bible times, fetching water was the women’s daily task, and they usually went in groups (that’s why if someone wanted to find a wife, they went to the well). But this woman was filled with shame. She came to the well by herself at noon, so that no one would ask her anything. Yet there was more to her loneliness: in Israel a woman normally couldn’t initiate divorce, which meant that the five husbands she had been married to had rejected her by serving a certificate of divorce. And at the present time, she was being rejected in the worst way by a man who didn’t even have the decency to marry her. Furthermore, in the first century a woman divorced more than three times was considered an outcast. This is why I love the way this story starts: “He *had* to pass through Samaria” (John 4:4). The need was not geographical, because there were other roads. Jesus *had* to come in order to offer this lonely soul His *gift* of eternal life (verse 10). He *had* to tell her that He was the Messiah, and that He knew everything about her and still accepted *her*. His gift was for her! No wonder this encounter changed her life. And His gift is for you and me as well!