

A man with a large, dark brown backpack is seen from behind, looking out over a white, textured surface that resembles snow or a thick layer of wool. The background is a bright yellow gradient. On the left side, there is a large orange number '2' inside a dashed orange circle. Below the number '2' is a white rectangular box with an orange border. To the right of the box, there is a faint white paper airplane icon. The text 'Lord, I will go!' is written in a bold, dark blue font, and 'Fill Me' is written in a bold, dark blue font below it.

# 2

**Lord, I will go!**  
**Fill Me**

**(John 4:13-14)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**T**hat news deeply affected the world! According to the main communication means, the supermodel of Russian origin, Ruslana Kurshunova, had died after falling from the eighth floor of her apartment in the city of Manhattan. No one could imagine such a thing. This young lady had everything at her feet: fame, money, influence and a great future ahead of her.

Suddenly, the investigations started. Her family members refused to believe the version given by the authorities. However, after long investigations, they concluded that the model had taken her life. A close friend, after being



interrogated, said that in those days Kurshunova seemed very anguished. Sadly, the anguish took her to a sad end.

Unfortunately, just like that young lady, many others experience situations of anguish. The Bible presents the story of a woman that was in anguish, but she found in Jesus forgiveness and purpose for her life.

## DEVELOPMENT

The Gospel of John presents the story of woman who had a special encounter with Jesus. We don't know her name, but since she originated from the city of Samaria, she is known as the "Samaritan woman."

Before getting into the story, it's important to understand that the life of Jesus was registered in the first four books of the New Testament, known as the "Gospels." The word "gospel" means "good news", therefore, we can conclude that it contains the good news of salvation through the person of Jesus Christ.

As you all know, the fourth gospel is the Gospel of John. Maybe you are asking: Who is John? According to the Scriptures, John was a young man who along with his father was dedicated to the trade of fishing (Matthew 4:21). By nature, he was impulsive and of an explosive character to the point that he was known as the "son of thunder" (Mark 3:17), but one day his life changed forever.

The one who was known as the "son of thunder" came to be the disciple of love. He wrote five books of the New Testament (the Gospel of John, three letters and the book of Revelation). We can say that John was a living example of the power of God to transform and use the youth in the ministry!

And it was precisely John who, in chapter four of his gospel, relates the fascinating story of the Samaritan woman. The story starts with Jesus heading to Galilee, but before getting to his destiny he decided to make a stop, because "He needed to go through Samaria." (John 4:4).

I think that most of you know the conflict that existed between the Jews and the Samaritans. Why this antagonism? The Samaritans were part Jew and part Gentile, therefore, the Jews considered them as exiles to the point that they despised them. Given this situation, the Samaritans decided to have their own



religious system that competed with the religious system of the Jews. Between these two nations, a racial, religious and cultural wall was raised.

But Jesus came to knock down this dividing wall (Ephesians 2:14). As a result, without regard to the existing conflicts between Jews and Samaritans, He decided to pass by the city of Samaria.

According to the story, Jesus, along with his followers, arrived at Samaria at noon; and while the disciples went to the city to buy something to eat, Jesus sat to rest along the well of Sicar, a small village of Samaria. It's in this moment, at the hour of high heat, that a woman of the city came to the well to get water for the day's consumption.

Suddenly, Jesus initiates a conversation, making a request: "Will you give me a drink?" (John 4:7)

The woman responded: "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9)

The Master didn't enter into a debate, instead in a direct way He said: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

It's interesting to note that when the woman saw Jesus, she identified Him *as a simple outsider*. We note that she said: "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" (John 4:11)

The Samaritan woman saw in Jesus a common and ordinary itinerant!

But as she continued to talk with Jesus her perspective changes and she begins to see him as a great leader. The Samaritan woman said to Jesus: "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?" (John 4:12)

Jesus was wanting the woman to have a deep knowledge of the spiritual things. It's for that reason that He says: "Everyone who drinks of 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 to eternal life." (John 4:13-14).





Faced with the offer, the woman exclaimed: Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." (John 4:15)

However, before continuing, the Lord makes a revelation: "Go, call your husband and come back."

The woman responded and said: "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup>The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." (John 4:16-18)

Before such revelation the Samaritan woman concludes: "This man is more than an outsider, He is more than a leader; this man is a prophet."

"Sir, I can see that you are a prophet." (John 4:19)

It was a moment prepared for Jesus to give the greatest of all the revelations. When the woman realized that she was in front of a simple mortal, is when she declares: "I know that the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." (John 4:25)

And it's right at this moment when she hears the voice of the master say: "I, the one speaking to you—I am He." (John 4:26)

Friends, Jesus Christ revealed Himself to this poor and anguished woman as the Messiah! As we hear these words, immediately, the story tells us that the woman "...leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:28-29)

The Samaritan woman understood that Jesus was more than a *mortal*, more than a *great leader*, more than a *great prophet*. She understood that Jesus was the *promised Messiah*. And not only did she understand Him, but also, she accepted Him in her heart!

Friends, this story is emotional, and it teaches us abundant and rich lessons. But there are various points that I would like to highlight from it. *Firstly*, only those that recognize who Jesus is can experience the transformation of their lives. The Samaritan woman had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and



thanks to this encounter, her life was changed. All those who have a personal encounter with Christ will experience a change! The Samaritan woman was distressed, sad, empty and hopeless. But when she encountered the Master, joy, happiness and hope filled her experience. Allow me to tell you that the same will happen in your life. Someone said that where Jesus passes something happens.

Secondly, from this story I would like to specify that when someone encounters Jesus, they can't remain silent. What did the Samaritan woman do when Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah? She went out to tell others. Ellen White, in the book *The Desire of Ages*, page 195, wrote:

As soon as she had found the Saviour the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.

When you have an encounter with Jesus and drink of the water of life you have a living desire to tell others of the great wonders of God. The Lord Jesus said: If any man thirst, let him come to Me, and drink. He that believes in Me, as the Scriptures have said, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37-38)

It has been told that Juan Naponi was fishing salmons in a place that was about 27 miles from the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco, California. Early in the afternoon he had filled his boat, he initiated the trip back to his home.

A little more than one mile from the bay that opens behind the bridge, the fisher Naponi saw, alarmed, hundreds of human heads going up and down in the waves. He was able to see part of the boat that had just sunk in shallow water. His eyes filled up with tears seeing so many people that were fighting to maintain themselves afloat. "I must save as much people as possible", he thought to himself, and he started to work.

His boat was the only one in the area. There were survivors everywhere that begged to be saved, for which Napoli worked as fast as he could. He threw the





salmons that he had fished into the ocean – which were valued at about three thousand dollars- to make room for more people. After six hours of work he had rescued 54 people. Since there were still people in the water, the fisherman threw a rope, on which 16 people grabbed on, which he towed to the bridge.

When the Samaritan woman meet with Jesus, she said the same that Juan Napoli: “I must save as many people as I can.”

## CONCLUSION

Friends, I would like to conclude saying that the day that you **experience a real encounter with Jesus you can't remain silent**. Also, we will say the same: “I must save as many people as I can.” Around us there are thousands of anguished and hopeless people; they need to hear that Jesus heals and saves. But someone has to say it! We can't stay silent. Today I invite you to drink of the water of life so that you can become a channel of blessing to the world. Rise up right now and say: Lord, give me of the water of life! Make me a river of blessing for those who perish without hope! Help me say that you are the hope for those that are in anguish!

I assure you that the day that you drink of the water of life, as with the Samaritan woman you too will say: “Lord, I will go.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Before knowing Jesus, how was the character of John? What happened subsequently in his life?
2. What situation existed between the Jews and the Samaritans?
3. Why do you believe that it was necessary for Jesus to pass by Samaria?
4. What happened with those that drink of the water of life?