

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 1

John 4:1-42

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of John, we are stepping into John 4. It will be in this chapter we see a meeting between Jesus and a Samaritan woman the well at Sychar. Before we step into this chapter, we need to gather some history to understand who the Samaritans were and how the Jews viewed them.

➤ **History of Samaritans**

Let us start with 2 Kings 17 to see the origin of the Samaritans.

2 Kings 17:22-24

²² For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

²³ Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

²⁴ And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

When the northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians, the king of Assyria carried away many of the people of Israel and he left some in their land. He then imported from Babylon certain prominent people to occupy the land and with that the city of Samaria which was the capital of the northern kingdom. These people then began to intermarry with the people of Israel that were left in the land, and their offspring became known as the Samaritans. The people of Judah viewed them as half breeds but there was more.

2 Kings 17:25-29

²⁵ And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them.

²⁶ Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

²⁸ Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹ Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

There was a priest of the northern kingdom who was brought back to Bethel to teach the people how to worship the True God. But because he was placed in Bethel it could have been that he worshipped the golden calf that had been set up in Bethel. So, what happened was, the people attempted to marry the false gods of the Babylonians with the worship of Jehovah. According to John Walvoord this was "syncretism" and this was forbidden by God.

Exodus 20:3

³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

From this we can see that the Samaritans were seen as half breeds and they had a false religion which they practiced. They had developed their own religious system, and they worshipped in a certain place. They worshipped in Mount Gerizim.

Deuteronomy 11:29

²⁹ And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim,

The Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim and that is where they worshipped.

Notice John 4:20

Here the words of the woman help us to see that there was a difference between the Jews and the Samaritans concerning where to worship.

We also need to know that the Samaritans rejected the writings of the prophets and any book of the Old Testament that spoke of the line of David and the importance of Jerusalem. All of this brought about hatred for the Samaritans.

When Nehemiah was sent back to Jerusalem to rebuild after the Babylonian captivity the Samaritans wanted to help but they were rejected by the Jews.

Ezra 4:1-5

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

² Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

³ But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

⁴ Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

⁵ And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

As we now come to the New Testament, we must understand that there is great hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans. In John chapter 4 Jesus is teaching how the Gospel knows no racial barriers. What we see in John 4 is what we read in Ephesians 2.

Ephesians 2:11-16

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

¹⁵ *Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

¹⁶ *And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

Now we are ready to step into John 4.

"The Divine Appointment"

Part 1

Notice John 4:1-3

As Jesus left Judea He was avoiding a confrontation with the Pharisees. The confrontation would come but the time was not right. There was an appointed time, and Jesus would not allow it to happen until the appointed time. Every event in the life of Jesus had an appointed time and He was in control of when each event would unfold.

John 7:6-8

⁶ *Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.*

⁷ *The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

⁸ *Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.*

There are many verses that speak of Jesus' "TIME" and how it had not yet come.

Application:

It is important to understand that our Lord also controls the events that unfold in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

There are times when we desire to see things happen but there are delays. This is by design. God delays events in our lives so that His will is brought to pass in His time.

Genesis 18:9-14

⁹ And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

¹⁰ And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

¹³ And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Genesis 21:1-2

And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

² For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

God had a set time for Isaac to be born, and it would be after Abraham and Sarah were well past the childbearing years. Why would God delay the birth of Isaac?

1. To show that His power was not limited by human ability.
2. Isaac was a miracle child and was a type of Jesus Christ.
3. To show that His promises will be fulfilled apart from the helplessness of man.

Notice John 4:2 again.

Jesus did not baptize but His disciples did. Why are we told this? This is a very important verse. Many people believe in baptismal regeneration which means that they believe that baptism is required for salvation. This verse makes it very clear that baptism is not required for eternal life. Let us notice a few verses.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

1 John 3:3

⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Jesus came to save mankind. He came to take away our sins. If baptism was required for the forgiveness of sin, then why did our Lord not baptize? If baptism is required for salvation, then surely Jesus would have baptized people who came to Him. Our Lord was very careful with every move He made. Christian baptism is important for it is the first step of obedience as a believer. But it is not a requirement for salvation. Jesus never baptized even one person.

Notice John 4:3-4

Jesus left Judea on His way to Galilee, and the Bible tells us that He **MUST** needs go through Samaria. It was essential that He go through Samaria. This was the area that the Jews avoided because of the Samaritans. But Jesus would go this way because there was a Divine appointment that had been set up. He was to meet a woman at the well at Sychar.

Conclusion/application:

Jesus lived as a man filled with the Spirit. He was walking in the Spirit and therefore he knew which way He was to go. I cannot help but wonder how many Divine appointments we have missed because we were not walking in the Spirit? How many meetings have we missed because we were focused upon the things of this world and not on the things that are eternal?