

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 2

John 4:1-42

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we stepped into John 4, and it is in this chapter that we find a very familiar text. It is the meeting of Jesus and the woman at the well. We gained some background last week as we considered the history of the Samaritans which helped us to understand why they were hated by the Jews. They were viewed as half breeds with a false religion, they did not worship in Jerusalem, but they had their own temple in Mount Gerizim, and they rejected many of the Old Testament books with the exception of the Pentateuch which is the first 5 books of the Bible. They came to Nehemiah when he had been sent to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls around the city, but the Jews rejected their help. They then teamed with the enemies of the Jews and made it difficult for the workers rebuilding the wall. All of this stirred a hatred for the Samaritans and so the Jews would not pass through Samaria.

But Jesus had come to break down racial barriers therefore in this chapter we see Jesus reaching out to one of the most rejected people of His day. In the previous chapter we watched as Jesus evangelized a highly respected moral man by the name of Nicodemus. In chapter 4 Jesus will evangelize a no named woman who is living in deep immorality. In both of these meetings we learn that the Gospel is for every single person. It is for the most respected people that we encounter, and it is for the most rejected people that we encounter.

Notice John 4:1-3

Jesus would leave Judea and He would go to Galilee. The religious leaders were looking for a confrontation, but the time was not right. The confrontation would come later. In verse 2 we looked at how Jesus did not baptize anyone, but it was done by His disciples. This helps us to better understand that baptism was not a requirement for salvation for if it was then Jesus would have surely baptized people because He had come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Notice John 4:1 again.

I wanted to point out something very important in this verse. Notice closely that Jesus MADE disciples before they were baptized. The order here is very important. No one in

the Bible was baptized until they had exercised faith. They became disciples THEN they were baptized.

Notice John 4:3-4

On His way to Galilee Jesus MUST NEEDS go through Samaria. We started to consider this verse last week. Jesus knew the woman would be at the well. The Spirit was leading Him to walk in the will of the Father. Jesus would do as the Spirit led Him regardless of the opinion of the Jews of His day.

Application:

Last week we considered how these Divine appoints are set up in our lives as well, but we must be under the control of the Spirit in order to see them as appointments planned by God.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Psalms 37:23

²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

These appointments are God's plan for our lives. He desires that we make Him known to the world around us. The problem comes when we are not filled with the Spirit because it is then that we miss these appointments. Too many believers miss these appointments because the flesh is controlling them and the flesh is caught up in the world.

Let me share a few thoughts from George Zeller.

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- ✓ **The lust of the flesh - What we desire to do.**
- ✓ **The lust of the eyes - What we desire to have.**
- ✓ **The pride of life - What we desire to be.**

"Thus man's will apart from God's will is to do what he wants to do (in the flesh), to have what he wants to have, and to be what he wants to be. Those outside of Christ are busy seeking to fulfill these three desires, all independently of God's will. "Forget about what God wants, I want to do certain things, I want to have certain things, and I want to be what I want to be. Not God's will, but my will be done."

The person who does the will of God takes these same three things and turns them around in order to serve and glorify God:

- ✓ *Lord, I only want to do what you would have me to do*
- ✓ *Lord, I only want to have what you would want me to have.*
- ✓ *Lord, I only want to be whatever you would have me to be.*

We can see the problem that we struggle with. It is truly the will of the Father for us to make every Divine appointment and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I also need to add that the appointment might be with a fellow believer who just needs someone to be there and listen and pray.

Notice John 4:5-6

Here in these verses, we are told the location of where Jesus will meet the Samaritan woman. It was near a parcel of land that Jacob gave to Joseph, and it was at Jacob's well. In the Bible the wells often picture Jesus Christ and the salvation which He offers. As we look closely at the text before us, we can see a picture of our salvation and the blessings that we have in Jesus Christ.

- **We see that this place had been purchased at an earlier time.**

Genesis 33:18-19

¹⁸ *And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.*

¹⁹ *And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.*

The land had been purchased by Jacob and in the same way our salvation was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

➤ **We see the enemy attempted to steal it away.**

Genesis 48:21-22

²¹ And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.

²² Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

After Jacob had purchased the land, the Amorites attempted to take it from him but with sword and bow Jacob took back his land. This pictures what our enemy desires to do to us. He cannot take away our salvation, but he can lead us on a path where we will miss the blessings which our Lord desires for us to have.

Notice John 4:6

We need to notice that Jesus sat on the well because He was weary. He was more exhausted than His disciples for they continued on their journey to get food. What are we to see in this? We are to see the humanity of our Lord. John's desire is to show us the Deity of Jesus Christ, but John also does not ignore His humanity. He became tired just as we do. He carried more of a mental weight than His disciples, which they knew nothing about. This means that when we are exhausted and overloaded with the cares of life, we have a Savior that can relate to us, and He can give to us that which we need.

Hebrews 4:13-16

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Notice John 4:7

The woman Jesus was to meet was not there when He arrived, so He sat on the well until she came.

Application:

I am reminded here of the patience of our Lord. There were many times in my life when Jesus showed up, and I ignored His presence only to go back into my sinful life. I praise Him that He did not leave but He waited until the day when I came to Him for salvation. Our Lord is patient with sinners but there comes a time when all offers are taken away.

2 Peter 3:8-10

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Our Lord is patient but there will come a day when judgment will fall.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Conclusion:

As we come to the end of our study tonight, I just want to point out the compassion of our Lord. He is the Creator of the universe, He had all the praise of heaven, He came and healed most if not all the people of His day, He would die for the sins of all mankind and He would be resurrected on the third day. But He is still a Personal Savior. He waited for this woman who was an outcast to come to the well because He desired to see her saved. He cared not just for the elites, but He cared for the lowliest of people. He cares for you

and what it is that you are facing in your life right now. He wants you to turn to Him for wisdom and guidance and He patiently waits for you.

There are Pastors today who are very popular and they pastor mega churches. But they are not approachable. They have very little contact with the common people. That was not the way our Lord lived. He was approachable for He cared about every single person. He took time for leaders, and He took time for outcasts. I point out all of this to remind all of us (me included) that every person we encounter is loved by our Lord. Every person is made in the image of God and God desires to see them saved. I therefore have no right to look down upon anyone because of background or past. If it were not for the grace of our Lord, we could have all been as the woman at the well.