

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 3

John 4:1-42

Introduction: In our study of John's Gospel, we are in the middle of a meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4. There was an appointment that God had set up from before the foundation of the world. It was this meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. She knew nothing about the meeting. She was just doing what she did on a daily basis and in her day, she encountered the Son of God at the well at Sychar.

Notice John 4:1-7

Jesus was weary and He therefore sat on the edge of the well completely exhausted. It was the sixth hour, which was noon. The weather would have been hot, and this was not the normal time for women to go to the well. They normally came in the cool of the day. But this woman would come in the heat. Why? She was despised by the other women because of her past and her current lifestyle. She was an immoral woman, and she had been rejected by society. No one wanted to associate with her, so she came alone. As we considered Sunday, this is the kind of people Jesus came to save. When Jesus arrived, she was not yet there so He would wait for her. When she arrived, Jesus started the conversation by asking for a drink.

Notice John 4:8

We did not spend any time on this verse Sunday, so I want to take a few minutes to look at why we are told that His disciples went to the city. This was certainly the Providence of God. These men went into a city of the Samaritans to buy food from them. This was something that the Jews would not even consider. Notice the statement concerning how the Jews felt about eating bread made by the Samaritans.

"One who eats bread [baked by] Samaritans is like one who eats pork."

So, what inspired them to go and buy food from the Samaritans? It was God who put it in their hearts to do so. The woman who Jesus was going to meet needed time alone with the Lord. God would be sure that this meeting happened and that there were no distractions.

Application:

What do we learn from this? Let us be sure to ask our Heavenly Father to take away all distractions when we have opportunities to share the Gospel with people. We see from this meeting here that He certainly can remove the distractions for the time needed. Prayer at the start of our day for God to remove the distractions is very important.

Ephesians 6:11-13, 18

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

I show you this to remind all of us that we have an enemy that will do all he can to hinder the preaching of the Gospel and one of his tools is distractions. I have seen many times when the enemy will use someone to show up at a time when you are sharing the Gospel with an unbeliever. I have seen it in hospitals in the secular work field, and even in a service where the Gospel is being proclaimed. The bottom line is that we need to pray that God would remove all distractions. Jesus disciples went to the Samaritans to buy food which was something that was not normal. So, we can be sure that God took them away so as not be a distraction or a hinderance.

Notice John 4:9

The woman was amazed that Jesus would speak to her and ask for a drink. She knew that the Jews saw the Samaritans as the lowest of the human race. The Jews would NEVER drink from a vessel owned by a Samaritan because they believed it would defile them. But as we said before, Jesus is showing us that the Gospel knows no racial barriers. I want us to notice what the Believer's Bible Commentary says concerning her attitude because this shines a little more light on the compassion of our Lord.

"There was a trace of sarcasm in the woman's reply, as if she meant, "We Samaritans are the dirt under your feet until you want something; then we are good enough!" Jesus paid no attention to her flippancy or to her bitterness."

Regardless of her attitude toward Jesus and toward the Jews, Jesus was able to see a sinner in need of a Savior,

Application:

Might we be filled with the Spirit so that we too can look beyond the sarcasm and the critical spirit of the unsaved and understand that they are the way they are because they are lost. How often do we neglect to pray for someone or consider sharing the Gospel with them because somewhere along life's path they offended me or my family? We **MUST** learn to let these offenses go because there is a greater issue than our feelings. There are souls that need to meet the Savior.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Notice John 4:10

We see 2 things which the woman did not know in this verse.

1. She did not know of the GIFT.
2. She did not know the GIVER.

What is the Gift that Jesus spoke of here?

Romans 6:23

²³ *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The GIFT that Jesus spoke of is salvation/eternal life. She knew nothing about eternal life in the sense that she did not know that it was a gift and that it was received by faith. Neither did she know the GIVER of the GIFT.

Application:

The woman is never named in this passage, but we can be sure that one day we shall meet her in heaven. She is not named for a reason. She represents all the unsaved sinners. There is an endless list of sinners whose names could be placed in this passage. Sunday, I mentioned that this woman came to the well because she was thirsty. She was thirsty for the water of the well, but she was also thirsty in her soul for lasting satisfaction. She was like many people in our world who are looking for satisfaction in places that have nothing to offer. This woman was looking in relationships for she had been married 5 times and was now with a man who was not her husband.

Jeremiah 2:13

¹³ *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

God has placed in every single person a thirst that only He can satisfy. There is not one person who has not had a deep longing for satisfaction and peace in their lives, and they have searched in many places and have drunk for the filthy cisterns of the world. This thirst is mentioned in several verses.

Isaiah 55:1-3

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² *Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

³ *Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

John 6:35

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Revelation 21:6

⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

These verses help us to see that all people have a thirst that they are longing to quench. So, they drink the contaminated waters of the world looking for fulfillment. Let us notice another passage.

Luke 16:

¹⁹ *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:*

²⁰ *And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,*

²¹ *And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

²² *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*

²³ *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

²⁴ *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

Here was a man who had a life full of earthly riches, and yet we see that in hell he is begging for water. This tells us that his thirst was never satisfied by what he had on earth because in hell he still was longing to have his thirst quenched. It is very interesting here

to see that there was water/satisfaction in Paradise because he longed for Lazarus to bring just a drop to him.

Notice John 4:11-18

We will come back to these verses next week but as we end tonight, I wanted to look at something which Jesus did here. When she showed interest in His offer Jesus then begins to bring the conversation around to her personal life. Why did He do this? He had to expose the wound before it could be healed. In other words, she had to acknowledge her sin and see the path she was on before she could ever see her need for a Savior.

Conclusion/application:

Let us understand that when the Gospel is shared the Truth about sin must be made clear. That means people **MUST** know that God requires all sin to be paid for and that man is helpless to pay his own sin debt. That is exactly why we need a Savior. If someone is not confronted with the consequences of sin and how it **MUST** be paid for then how will they ever understand their need for a Savior?

Acts 2:22-24, 36-38

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.