

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 5

John 4:1-42

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we were looking at the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. Last week we stopped just as Jesus revealed the sin in her life as He gave her a command.

Notice John 4:15-16

The woman desired the Living Water but before she could drink of the Living Water she had to understand her sinful condition. Therefore, Jesus commands her to go and get her husband. Jesus knew her life situation. We considered last week the omniscience of Jesus which means He is all knowing. Nothing was hidden from Jesus concerning this woman. He does not bring up her life situation to belittle her; He brings it up because her sin needs to be addressed. He opens a wound here not to cause pain but to get her heart prepared to receive the Living Water. No person can be saved without understanding the fact that they have sinned. No one can see their need of a Savior if they do not understand their True spiritual condition and understand that they are headed for the judgment and they have no means to help themselves. Just like a doctor gives out a very straight forward diagnosis so that the patient will see the need to be treated and this is exactly what Jesus is doing.

Notice John 4:17-18

The woman attempts to cover her sin by not giving Jesus all the information, but He knows. He then exposes the entire wound.

Application:

All of this is going to lead to her salvation. Therefore, let us learn several lessons.

- 1. It was the Words of Jesus that would bring her to salvation.**

This tells us that people need to hear the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- 2. People need to hear about sin and its consequences.**

I point this out because there are many churches today which avoid subjects that make people uncomfortable. They will not mention certain things such as sin, wrath, judgment, hell, and the Lake of Fire. Too many churches are places where people gather to be told stories and hear things which make them feel good. They are told that we are all God's children and we are all going to heaven. That is called universalism and it is certainly not taught in the Bible. Therefore, there are people sitting in churches who are lost but they do not know how desperate their situation is. One day they die and they are plunged into a Christless eternity, and it is too late. All I can say is, "Woe unto those who refuse to preach the Truth of the Bible to a lost and a dying world!"

Notice John 4:19

The woman now understands that Jesus is a prophet. Her understanding is growing but she does not yet know that He is the Messiah.

➤ **The Subject of Worship**

Notice John 4:20

Now the woman expresses her concern about worship. She does not know who Jesus is, but she sees Him as a man with a message from God. Therefore, she brings up the subject of worship because she is confused. She knew the Jews worshipped in Jerusalem and the Samaritans worshipped in Mount Gerizim. Israel had worshipped in Jerusalem since Solomon built the Temple about 1000 years prior to this. The Samaritans worshipped in Gerizim for about 700 years. Let us notice the answer that Jesus gives her.

Notice John 4:21

Jesus made it clear that there was a change coming, but what was He talking about? He was talking about a new dispensation. What is a dispensation? I want to take some time and explain what a dispensation is and consider briefly each dispensation in the Bible. First of all, let us define what a dispensation is. Let us notice the definition from Vines Expository Dictionary.

"It primarily signifies "the management of a household or of household affairs (in the Greek the word means house law, or we could say house rules); then the management or administration of the property of others, and so "a stewardship,""

A dispensation is a set of house rules. As we read through and study the Bible, we see that things change. Some people say that God never changes, and that is correct. But His ways

have changed over the years. To prove that we can just consider the fact that we do not sacrifice lambs for our sins. We do not go to Jerusalem to worship, and we do not worship on Saturday. The point is that God's ways have changed over time. God's rules change from age to age. There is one thing that never changes and that is the way of salvation. From the fall until today man is saved only by grace through faith. Works have never been a part of salvation and never will be. There are 7 dispensations in the Bible. As we look at the different dispensations there are 4 points that we need to look for.

- a. Scripture
- b. Test/Responsibility
- c. Failure
- d. Judgment

Let us now consider each dispensation.

✓ **First dispensation- Innocency**

- ✓ **Scripture** - Genesis 1:28-3:6
- ✓ **Test** - Manage the garden, fill and subdue the earth, and do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 1-2.
- ✓ **Failure** - Disobedience and both Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:1-6
- ✓ **Judgment** - The world came under the curse, and all people would come under a death sentence. Life would become much more difficult. Genesis 3:7-19.

✓ **Second dispensation - Conscience**

The conscience became the means by which God would now govern people. Man was now responsible to follow the leading of his conscience.

- ✓ **Scripture** - Genesis 4:1 - 8:14
- ✓ **Test** - Do good and offer a blood sacrifice for sin. Genesis 3:5,7,22, 4:4
- ✓ **Failure** - Man failed miserably. There was murder and there was unnatural affection as well as widespread evil and wickedness. Genesis 4, 6:5-6, 11-12
- ✓ **Judgment** - The worldwide flood. Genesis 6-7

✓ **Third dispensation - Civil government.**

This dispensation began after the flood. It included a change in man's diet because now he could freely eat meat. There was the promise from God that there would never be another

global flood, and God set His rainbow in the sky as a reminder of this covenant. Man was also entrusted with capital punishment so as to prevent that which took place before the flood as human life would now be protected through the practice of capital punishment.

- ✓ **Scripture** - Genesis 8:15-11:9
- ✓ **Test** - Be fruitful and multiply and carry out capital punishment to deter murder. Genesis 8:15 - 9:7.
- ✓ **Failure** - They refused to scatter. They were led by Nimrod who convinced them to build a tower and remain together. Genesis 11:1-4.
- ✓ **Judgment** - God came down and scattered them and confused their languages. Genesis 11:5-9

✓ **Fourth dispensation - Patriarchal Rule/Promise**

During this dispensation God chose one family who would be tested for all. In this dispensation man was to believe God and to serve Him. God would give promises and provide all the provisions which they needed.

- ✓ **Scripture** - Genesis 11:10 - Exodus 18:27
- ✓ **Test** - Stay in Canaan and believe and trust God for whatever they faced. - Genesis 12:1-7
- ✓ **Failure** - They intermingled with the surrounding nations, and they fled to Egypt and dwelled there. Genesis 12:10, Genesis 46:10.
- ✓ **Judgment** - They found themselves in Egyptian bondage for 400 years and the wilderness wanderings. Exodus 1:8 - 18:27.

✓ **Fifth dispensation - Mosaic Law**

In this dispensation the people would be given the Law on Mount Sinai. They would be required to keep the entire Law. Their failure would lead to great times of difficulty as the ten northern tribes would go into the Assyrian captivity and the two southern tribes went into the Babylonian captivity. Then in AD 70 the nation found themselves in the diaspora in which they were scattered across the world.

- ✓ **Scripture** - Exodus 19:1 - John 14:30.
- ✓ **Test** - Keep the entire Law and walk with God. Exodus 19:3-8
- ✓ **Failure** - Failed to keep the Law. 2 Kings 17:7-20, Matthew 23:1-25

- ✓ **Judgment** - The Assyrian captivity, the Babylonian captivity, and the worldwide dispersion in AD 70.

- ✓ **Sixth dispensation - Grace/Church Age**

This is the dispensation that we are in now. In this dispensation man is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. God is no longer dealing with one family or one nation, but he is reaching out to all mankind. This dispensation does not mean there was not grace in the other dispensations, but in this dispensation, grace was displayed in a brightness in the coming of Jesus Christ unlike it was ever displayed previously.

- ✓ **Scripture** - Acts 2:1- Revelation 19:21.
- ✓ **Test** - Under grace the responsibility of man is to accept the Gift of righteousness that God freely offers to all through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:15-18.
- ✓ **Failure** - Man has rejected Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that narrow is the way and few there be that find it. The majority have turned from Jesus Christ, and they have therefore failed the test given in this dispensation.
- ✓ **Judgment** - Ryrie says the judgment is death and loss of rewards. Let us understand that this dispensation ends with the second coming of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation. The Church Age, however, ends at the rapture. Believers will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and receive or lose rewards based on their walk with the Lord and the unsaved will experience spiritual death.

Notice the quote by Samuel Hoyt on the believer's judgment.

"The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. Graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather they are thankful that they have been graduated and they're grateful for what they did achieve. To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell period to undergo the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential."

This dispensation ends when Jesus returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

- ✓ **Seventh dispensation - Millennial Kingdom**

This dispensation begins when Jesus Christ returns and sets up His earthly Kingdom. This will include the fulfillment of the unconditional covenants of the Old Testament. They will be Abrahamic, Davidic, Land, and the New Covenant. The Lord Jesus will sit on David's throne in Jerusalem and rule the world. His government will be perfect, and it will last for one thousand years. Satan will be bound and when there is unrighteousness it will be dealt with very quickly. Man will be required to obey the King and His Laws.

- ✓ **Scripture** – Revelation 20:1-15
- ✓ **Test** – Be obedient to and worship Jesus Christ. Isaiah 11:3-5, Zechariah 14:9, 16.
- ✓ **Failure** – Last rebellion at the end of the 1000-year reign. Revelation 20:7-9.
- ✓ **Judgment** – Physical death, The Great White Throne and the Second death. Revelation 20:11-15.

Following this will be the eternal state but it is not a dispensation. We who will occupy this eternal state will be free of sin and so there will be NO failure or NO judgment. We will live in perfect harmony with one another and with our Lord for ever and ever.

Conclusion:

Notice John 4:21 again.

When Jesus made this statement, they were in the Dispensation of Law, but she would soon be in the Dispensation of Grace. Worship would then be in Spirit and Truth.