

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 7

John 4:1-42

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we stopped just as the woman at the well had believed on Jesus Christ. She was now saved and she was saved by grace through faith. This is how every single person must be saved. There is no one who is saved by works or by any merit of their own. Salvation is by grace through faith plus NOTHING.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Getting back to the woman, she was saved by faith in Jesus Christ not by any works of her own. As we continue this evening we shall see the evidence of her salvation.

➤ **Signs of Life**

Notice John 4:27-30

There are several thoughts to consider here. First of all, let us consider that the disciples returned after the conversion of the woman. Let us remember that God had removed these men from the scene because they would have been a hinderance. No doubt they would have resisted as Jesus spoke to her. Keep in mind that they are Jews and she was a Samaritan. Now as the conversation had come to an end they returned. They marvelled that Jesus spoke to her but not one of them said a word.

In verse 28 we see that the woman left her waterpot and went back to the city. The leaving of the waterpot is significant. She had come to get water from the well but now that she has tasted of the Living Water her priorities have changed. The well that she had come to can be seen as the different cisterns that people drink from looking for satisfaction. When a sinner is saved their desires and their priorities change. They now realize that the cisterns they once drank from had no fulfillment.

Philippians 3:4-8

⁴ *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*

⁵ *Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

⁶ *Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

⁷ *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

⁸ *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Notice what happened at Ephesus.

Acts 19:18-19

¹⁸ *And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.*

¹⁹ *Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

James also speaks of works that manifest true salvation.

James 2:14-20

¹⁴ *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

¹⁵ *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

¹⁶ *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

There is another thought from this woman that I want to consider. She was born again on the day she met Jesus. There is a question that is often raised in Christian circles, "How can we know when a person is saved?" Consider how we know when a baby is born. There are signs of life. Namely the baby will begin to cry out and at that moment there is relief that comes to the mom and dad. The signs of life are evident.

Notice John 4:28-30 again.

Here is her cry, "Come see a man which told me all things that ever I did." This is the cry of spiritual life in this woman. This woman could not contain her joy, and it was her desire to share the Living Water which she had found. She went back to the city and to the men. Why the men? They were her contacts. She did not come to the well with other women because she was an outcast. She knew the men of the city, and it was her desire to see them believe just as she had. I can assure you these were the immoral men of the city if they were connected with her. In verse 30 we see that they came out of the city to see Jesus. This tells us they were like this woman in that they were looking for satisfaction. They were searching just as she was. She was looking to relationships to find satisfaction and most likely these men were doing the same. When I think about these men I cannot but wonder if they would have been people which we would have avoided because of their lifestyles. Maybe we would have said, "It is a waste of time to go to that town. Those people are too far lost in their sin." Let us learn from this entire passage that even the lowliest of people and the outcasts of the world are also looking to find some kind of fulfillment in life. I point this out because there are many believers who believe the Gospel is for the family that comes to church and looks to have it altogether. Their kids play sports, dad is successful, mom has a solid position as a nurse or a teacher or some other profession, so they seem to have it all, but they are not saved. These are the people who many believe the Gospel is for and it is for them, but it is also for those who barely make ends meet and struggle in life. Those who have fought to have much of anything in life. Those who have made poor choices over and over again and never seem to learn. The Gospel is for these people also and we must never forget it. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. These kinds of people are also created in the image of God.

Thought:

Someone has asked why people who are saved for quite a while do not do as this woman did here in this passage? In other words, why do we not reach out with the Gospel to these kinds of people? Someone else had an answer, "We who have been saved for a while have separated ourselves into the Christian culture and we have lost touch with these kinds of people." We separate ourselves into many different Christian groups and in so doing we have very little contact with people like these men and this woman who lived in Samaria. We must have contact if we are going to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be willing to cross the street to engage the lost.

We need to notice a point about her way of evangelism.

Notice John 4:29 again.

She was transparent. Before this she was probably guarded about her past. I say this because she came alone to the well. She could have tagged along with the other women, but she would have heard the whispers and the judgmental attitudes. Therefore, she avoided others. But now it is different. She went back to the city and told that Jesus had revealed to her all things that she had done. Can you not sense the relief in her now that she has been set free from the guilt and the shame. Her invitation was to come and see. She had no problem with the fact that people knew her past now because her past was now forgiven. She was so free in her spirit and the Living Water in her was now flowing out to others.

Application:

This woman knew nothing of the "proper" ways of evangelism. But she would reach a large portion of the city with the Gospel.

Notice John 4:40-41

Let us learn that we do not need to have a Bible education to share the Gospel. We can go into the world and invite people to come and meet the Man who completely changed our lives.

➤ **The Return of the Disciples**

Notice John 4:31-33

When the disciples returned, they expected Jesus to be hungry, but He said that He had food to eat that they knew nothing about. This confused these men and they wondered who brought the food for Jesus. These men were thinking only about the physical.

Notice the words of John Phillips.

"Any woman who has slaved over the kitchen stove, prepared a delicious meal, called her husband to come and eat—only to be told that he's not hungry—can empathize with the disciples at this point. But the Lord was never discourteous, never thoughtless of others. His behavior at this point in the story is all of a piece with his divine purpose in this world. He had forgotten his physical thirst in his greater thirst for the Samaritan woman's soul. Now he forgot his physical hunger in his hunger to reach a lost world."

Notice John 4:34

Here is a verse that we must pay close attention to. Jesus told His disciples that His meat was to do the will of God and to finish it. What is He saying? From physical food we get strength and energy. This sustains us for our daily activities. From doing the will of God for our lives we get spiritual strength and energy. I can personally testify about this. There are weeks when I get mentally exhausted and come here on Sunday very tired. Then I get to the message and there is an energy that comes and I get strength that I did not have when I walked in. To do the will of God is food for the soul.

When the disciples left Jesus, He was sitting on the well completely exhausted and when they returned, He was different. He ate no physical food, but His food came from doing the will of the Father as He reached the Samaritan woman with the Gospel.

There are believers today who are sluggish and not involved. I am convinced that when a believer exercises their spiritual gift or gifts, they will find the energy and strength that they need in their lives. God did not save us and let us on this earth to just lounge around until He returns or until we die. He left us here to serve Him and to do His will. Notice the words of Wiersbe.

"The will of God should be food that nourishes us, not medicine that upsets us. The disciples were satisfied with material food, but Jesus wanted the satisfying spiritual food from God. The will of God gives us the strength we need to do our job in the great harvest all around us."

To do the will of God for our lives gives us purpose in life. When you live the will of God you will be surprised how many other purposes come into your life that will contribute to the will of God.

Conclusion:

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

There is no way you can experience the abundant life in Christ until you are committed to the will of the Father.

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good (best for us), and acceptable (pleasing to God), and perfect (nothing can be added to it), will of God.