

“The Samaritan Women At The Well”

John 4:1-26

Message by Michael J. Barnard

February 7, 2021

Teaching Aim: To examine the conversation between Jesus and the woman at Jacob’s well near Sychar. To recognize people will always be thirsty for physical water so long as they live on earth. To understand only Jesus can give us spiritual water from which we will never thirst again. To realize it doesn’t matter so much where we worship as it does who and how we worship.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Weary from the journey, Jesus goes to Jacob’s well near Sychar (John 4:1-9)

1. According to **verse 1**, the Pharisees were trying their best to stir up trouble towards Jesus and His disciples. What detail were they using to make John the Baptist’s disciples jealous? (See **John 3:26**) Was Jesus actually doing the baptizing Himself or was it His disciples (**vs. 2**)? What did Jesus do once He found out the Pharisees were causing problems (**vs. 3**)?

2. In order for Jesus to get to Galilee, He chose to travel the shorter route through Samaria (**vv. 3-4**). Orthodox Jews often crossed the Jordan River to the eastern side so that they would not step foot on Samaritan land. Why did they do this? (See **2 Kings 17:24**) How much animosity was there between the Jews and the Samaritans?

3. The King James Version of the Bible translates **verse 4** as, “*And he [meaning Jesus] must needs go through Samaria.*” Why did Jesus have to go through Samaria? Have you ever experienced a divine appointment in your life? If so, when? What did it mean to you?

4. What city did Jesus travel to in Samaria (**vs. 5**)? What famous Jewish patriarch had purchased a plot of land here? (See **Gen. 33:18-19**) To which tribe of Israel was this land allocated to? (See **Gen. 48:21-22**)

5. What famous patriarch dug a well at the place where Jesus rested (**vs. 6**)? People are still using this well today nearly 4,000 years after this individual completed digging it. Which modern city in Israel is located near the well today? (See Commentaries)

6. Jesus is unique in the fact that He has two natures; He is totally God and totally Man. Which of the two natures do we see evidence of in **verse 6**? What time of the day was it? Note: In Israel, that usually means that it is very hot.

7. Who wandered out to the well in the heat of the day as Jesus rested by it (**vs. 7**)? Why was it unusual for this woman to come for water at this time of the day? (See Commentaries) What might this indicate? Where were the disciples of Jesus (**vs. 8**)? What unexpected request did Jesus make of the woman? What made this request unusual? Did the woman immediately give Jesus the drink He requested (**vs. 9**)? Did she ever give Him the drink?

Part II: A fountain of water springing up to eternal life (John 4:10-15)

1. How did Jesus respond to the woman's questioning of Him (**vs. 10**)? What is "*the gift of God*" according to **Eph. 2:8-9**? In **John 7:37-39**, we find Jesus speaking at the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles). What can we learn about the "*living water*" from these verses?

2. During His time Jesus was at the well, Jesus had nothing to draw the water with (**vs. 11**). The well was not only deep, but it was also very deep. Jacob's well is over 100 feet deep and in 1938 it measured 138 feet deep. What did the woman ask Jesus in **verse 11**?

3. In **verse 12**, the Samaritan woman asked Jesus if He thought he was greater than their forefather Jacob? What is the obvious answer to her question? (See **John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-18**)

4. Like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman thought Jesus was talking of physical things when, in fact, He was talking about spiritual things (**vv. 13-14**). What is the only way this "*living water*" can be received today? (See **John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7**) What does this water spring up to (**vs. 14**)?

5. The things of this world only satisfy for a short time; we need God. Augustine wrote in his classic book, "*Confessions*": "*O Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in You.*" How have you found this to be true in your own life?

6. It is believed that Jacob's well was located about a half mile away from Sychar. Apparently, the woman walked half a mile to the well, drew the water from a depth of 100 feet, then carried the water back a half mile to town during the heat of the day. What was the woman thinking in **verse 15**? Why is it that so many people only want their physical needs met today and could care less about the spiritual? (See **Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 2:13-14; Rom. 8:6-8**)

Part III: Jesus confronts the woman's sin and teaches her what true worship is (John 4:16-26)

1. In **verse 16**, Jesus suddenly changed the topic of the conversation. What did Jesus tell the woman to do? Why? Note: If the woman was to understand her need for living water, Jesus first needed to confront her with her sin.
2. How did the woman respond to Jesus (**vs. 17**)? Did she tell Him the whole truth or just a half truth? In actuality, what is a half-truth? What truth do we learn in **verses 17b-18**?
3. John MacArthur wrote of the Samaritan woman, *"She was living like she was married with a man whom Jesus said was not her husband. By such an explicit statement, our Lord rejected the notion that when two people live together it constitutes marriage. Biblically, marriage is always restricted to a public, formal, official, and recognized covenant."* Why do you think so many people who call themselves Christians live in a similar situation today? According to the reaction of Jesus, is it right or wrong to live together without being married?
4. Immediately the woman attempted to change the subject. How does she attempt to sound religious (**vs. 19**)? Have you ever met someone who, though living a sinful lifestyle, acted like they were religious? What kind of religion is this?
5. What question did the woman ask Jesus as the two sat on the edge of Mount Gerizim near Sychar (**vs. 20**)? The Samaritans had developed their own hybrid form of religion based somewhat upon the Jewish religion. How important was Mount Gerizim to the Samaritans? Why? In effect, what was the woman asking of Jesus?

6. What truth did Jesus reveal to the woman at the well (**vs. 21**)? What hour was Jesus speaking of? Note: After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the temple had served its purpose as “*a type*” and was no longer needed to point to Jesus. In A.D. 70, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus and the Romans. The Holy Spirit now dwells in the hearts of believers and we are able to worship God from anywhere in the world at any time. When and where do you find your worship experience to be the sweetest? Why?

7. Jesus said in **verse 22**, “*we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*” How many ways can you think of to prove “*salvation is of the Jews?*” Jesus spoke of a coming hour in **verse 23**, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. When will this be? What did Jesus mean when He said we are to “*worship the Father in spirit and truth?*”

8. How about when Jesus said, “*God is Spirit?*” What did He mean? Which member of the Holy Trinity receives the worship in **verses 23-24**? Should these verses stop us from also worshiping God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?

9. The Samaritans only received the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, yet they were expecting the coming Messiah (**vs. 25**). According to **Deut. 18:18**, what were the Samaritans expecting?

10. What unexpected announcement did Jesus make to the woman in **verse 26**? (See **Exod. 3:14**) Note: This is one of only two times in the New Testament where Jesus acknowledges that He is the Messiah; here and before Pontius Pilate at Christ’s trial. Why do you think Jesus shared with this woman in Samaria that He was the Messiah and yet He withheld with the Jews? (See **Acts 1:8**)

11. If there was hope for this sexually immoral woman at Sychar, there is hope for us today. What are some ways that you are trying to reach the world for Christ? When is the last time that you shared the gospel with someone directly? Are you willing to try?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The Samaritans were looked down upon by the Jews as half-breeds who had compromised the Jewish faith.
- Jesus took the unusual step of communicating with a Samaritan woman & asking for a drink.
- The woman was shocked, but Jesus used the opportunity to talk to her about eternal life.
- On earth, we need water every day and will continue to thirst so long as we live.
- Jesus offered the woman water from which she will never thirst again.
- This water will become a fountain of water springing up to everlasting life. **(1 John 4:14)**
- Jesus revealed details of her sinful lifestyle in order to confront the sin in her life and bring her to the point of salvation.
- The woman attempted to change the topic by getting religious on Jesus and asking Him a spiritual question.
- Jesus explained to the woman the meaning of true worship. **(John 4:23-24)**