

A WOMAN OF SAMARIA

JOHN 4:1-30

Text: John 4:14

John 4:14

¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Introduction:

Today some people will believe most anything? For instance, the percentage of Americans who believe: That Elvis Presley is still alive: 10; In reincarnation: 30; In ghosts: 39; That aliens have visited earth in the past 100 years: 53; That the U.S. government is currently involved in cover-ups and conspiracies: 74. (Well, there may be something to that one!) People will believe anything, but they will stop short of believing the most important thing. People will accept all kinds of theories and beliefs, but they won't accept what the Bible says about Jesus Christ.

Many have wearied themselves trying to find what is truth and what is not.

In this passage we're presented a woman who is weary as well. She has been around and around, riding the

merry-go-round of life and she worn out from it. But, one day, Jesus Christ showed up outside her little town. She meets Him and He opens her eyes to the fact that there is a new life. A life that is free from the burdens and problems of the life she is now living. Jesus takes this weary, hardened woman and He leads her to a place of trust – to the truth.

Many today have grown weary, sick of walking the treadmill of life.

Notice:

1. A MISERABLE SAMARITAN

A. The Misery of Her Isolation (vs. 6)

John 4:6

⁶Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

This woman came to Jacob's Well to draw water. But, she did not come when all the other women came. The women came to draw their water early in the morning, before the sun rose high into the sky. They came while it was still cool.

History tells us that it was about a mile from town to the well where they came for water.

Drawing and carrying water for the day was hot, and hard work.

Why did this one woman not come with the others? I think the answer can be found in verses 17-18.

John 4:17-18

¹⁷The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

Perhaps she had been with men who belonged to some of the other women. Perhaps she was often the topic of their gossip as they drew water from the well.

It would seem that this woman was an outcast socially.

In the course of her conversation with the Lord, He tells her that she is even isolated from God.

John 4:20-22

²⁰Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. ²¹Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²²Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Even the little worship she managed to work into her sinful life was of no use for her spiritually. She was an outcast spiritually as well.

Note:

She is a picture of every person who is not in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? The Bible says that our sinful condition separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

B. The Misery of Her Ignorance (vs. 7-26)

In these verses, this poor woman tries to argue religion with Jesus. At first, she sees Him as just another Jew, and she wants Him to know that she has some ideas about religion too.

- She talks about their religious differences.

John 4:9

⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

- She uses sarcasm and ridicule.

John 4:11-12

¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

John 4:15

¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

- She tries to bring up a religious dispute.

John 4:19-20

¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Through all of this, the Lord shows her just how little she knows about God, about worship and about herself.

Notice the little word “if” in verse 10.

John 4:10

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Regardless of what she thought she knew, the Lord points out to her that there is one thing she does not know. She does not know Who He is.

Jesus tells her that “if” she only knew, she could ask Jesus for “living water” and she would be forever satisfied!

Left to herself, this woman might have died thinking that she was alright spiritually. Thank God that the Lord

reached into her darkness and dispelled her ignorance about Himself and about the way of salvation!

Someone has said, “What you don’t know won’t hurt you.” I say, “What you don’t know can send you to Hell!” Far too many people are living in ignorance when it comes to how to get reconciled back to God. Many are like this woman in our text. They know just enough about the church and about Christianity to be a danger to themselves. There are many things about the Bible and about theology that you may never learn. Not knowing them will not keep you out of Heaven, nor will not knowing them send you to Hell. But, if you miss the main thing, you will spend eternity separated from God in Hell.

Many will die and go to Hell from the pews of Baptist churches because they missed Jesus! They learned how to go to church and to Sunday School. They learned how to tithe. They learned what kind of Bible to buy. They learned how to turn over a new leaf and how to live a clean live. They learned many things, but they never learned the truth that salvation comes only through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They never learned that salvation is by grace, through faith.

C. The Misery of Her Inconsistencies (vs. 11-26)

Here she is, a woman with a checkered past, living a wicked life, yet she feels that she is qualified to argue religion with the Lord Jesus Christ. She demonstrates a clear picture of hypocrisy in action!

Note:

Many today feel that they are qualified to argue with God.

They say, “Well, I think this or that”, or “I believe this way or that way”, or “I know what the Bible says, but...”

Notice not only “A Miserable Samaritan” but also:

2. A MATCHLESS SAVIOUR

A. He Is Matchless In His Grace (vs. 4)

John 4:4

⁴ And he must needs go through Samaria.

The Bible tells us that “He must needs go through Samaria”. Most Jews went miles out of their way to go around Samaria to avoid coming into contact with them. The Jews hated the Samaritans! They were considered to be an inferior race because they were descended from Jews who had intermarried with

Gentiles that had been placed in the land by the Assyrians.

Thank God the Lord doesn't operate like other men! He did not care about their heritage. He did not care about the hatred of others. He did not care about the racial lines drawn by ignorant men.

He operates in the realm of grace! Jesus went to that place and sat on that well because He wanted to save this poor woman! Even His disciples were shocked by what Jesus had done, v. 27.

If the Lord had acted like any other Jew, He would have passed this woman and her town by. But, He extended grace to them and brought salvation to Sychar.

Note:

Think about it! If you and I got what we deserved, we would have never gotten a second look from God.

B. He Is Matchless In His Graciousness (vs. 7-26)

Jesus works with this woman patiently. He took her where He found her and gently led her to where she needed to be. He brought her to the place where she was ready to hear about Him and about Who He was. Then, when He revealed Himself to her, v. 26, she was at a place where she was ready to believe on Him.

John 4:26

²⁶ Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

That is how the Lord always works with people. He takes us where He finds us and gently leads us along to the place of faith in Him. He is always the perfect gentleman! He stands at the door of man's heart and He knocks.

C. He Is Matchless In His Gift (vs. 10-14)

John 4:10-14

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. ¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? ¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The Lord promised this woman that He could give her a drink of "living water". He promised her that this water would satisfy her in the depths of her soul. I would imagine that this probably appealed to her. She had tried all types of physical relationships to satisfy the deep longings of her soul and they had all left her empty and thirsty.

Promiscuity had not satisfied her. Marriage had failed five times to satisfy her. Living in the depths of sin on the fringes of society had failed to bring her happiness. Here, the Lord offers her an opportunity to find everything she has been looking for, by merely receiving His offer.

Notice not only “A Miserable Samaritan” and “A Matchless Saviour” but also:

3. A MARVELOUS SALVATION

A. There is a Change in Her Activity (vs. 28)

John 4:28

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

When she hears that the Lord is the Messiah, she has all the information she needs. She forgets about her mission to get some water from the well, and now she wants to tell others about the well of living water she has experienced.

This is what the Lord does in every life He redeems. He changes old sinners into something brand new.

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.

The old activities and attractions of sin and the world lose their appeal to the newborn saint of God. They know they are saved, they know they are different and they want others to hear about how Jesus can change them too! When Jesus comes in, He will change everything! You will walk differently, you will talk differently and you will think differently. You will have a brand new life and nothing will be as it was! You will be a new person from top to bottom, and from the inside out.

B. There Is a Change in Her Approach (vs. 28-29)

John 4:28-29

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, ²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Notice that she runs to tell the men about Jesus. Why the men? They all knew her, many probably knew her intimately! The other women hated her, but the men loved her. So, she runs to the very people who had shared her life of sin. Imagine how their curiosity is raised when she comes running in their direction. However, this time things are different! Now, she isn't talking about a rendezvous; she is talking about redemption. She hasn't come to arrange an affair with a guy; she has come to tell about amazing grace. He hasn't come looking for a date; she has come to talk about a Deliverer!

She is different, and the ones who knew her best see the change first!

Illustration:

When Jack Eckerd, the owner and founder of the Eckerd Drug store chain was saved, the first thing he did was to walk into one of his drugstores and walked down through the book shelves and he saw pornographic magazines. And he'd seen it there many times before, but it never bothered him before. Now he saw them with new eyes. He'd become a Christian.

He went back to his office. He called in his president. He said, "Take those magazines out of my stores. The president said, "You can't mean that, Mr. Eckerd. We make three million dollars a year on those magazines." He said, "Take 'em out of my stores." And in 1,700 stores across America, by one man's decision, those magazines were removed from the shelves because a man had given his life to Christ.

C. There Is A Change In Her Acknowledgement
(vs. 29)

John 4:29

²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Notice how this woman moved from not knowing Jesus to proclaiming Him as the Messiah.

In verse 9, He is a “Jew”. In verse 11, she calls Him “Sir”.

In verse 19, she sees Him as a “Prophet”. By verse 29, she has reached the place where she calls Him “Christ”.

She sees Him as the need of her soul. How did she make the progression from antagonism to acceptance?

She was led along gently, by the Lord. He brought her from knowing nothing about Him to seeing Him as her only hope in just a few minutes.

It was a work of grace!

Close:

Have you come to the place in your life where you are trusting Jesus and Him alone for the salvation of your eternal soul?

Are there those in your life who need to be saved? We should pray fervently for them.