

BibleSanity.org – Remote Bible Study

The Sermons, Parables, and Teachings of Jesus Christ

Session 4 – To the Samaritan Woman, September 6, 2022

The ‘Samaritan Woman’ / ‘Woman at the Well’

John 4:4-42, only in the Gospel of John, very early in Jesus’ ministry, right after his conversation with Nicodemus.

Sequential context:

- Baptism by John, 40 days of Temptation
- Gathering the Disciples, water into wine
- 1st Passover of ministry, cleanses the temple of moneychangers
- Dialogue with Nicodemus
- **John 3:22, 4:1-3** - Baptizing, “Repent, Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand”, Leaves Judea thru Samaria

John 3:22

After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

John 4:1-4

When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria.

Who were the Samaritans?

When Solomon's General, Jeroboam, took the Northern tribes, he set up his own temples, apart from Jerusalem, with golden calves in Beersheba and in Dan – the one in Samaria on Mt Gerizim, where Jesus and the woman were. For 200 years, every king of Israel starting with Jeroboam was idolatrous, and the kingdom went into Assyrian captivity in 722 BC .

200 years later, By the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, the Samaritans were a mixed people. They were Jews, mostly/partially returned peoples from Assyrian captivity, a people of mixed marriages, uncertain heritages/lineages with their own Pentateuch and who rejected the Old Testament apart from the Pentateuch, and were an idolatrous people. Ezra and Nehemiah rejected these people when rebuilding the temple and walls at Jerusalem.

500 years later, By the time of Jesus, Samaritans were considered worse than Gentiles, were cursed in the synagogues, could not be proselyted, and could not be witnesses in Jewish courts, but in reality, these were Israelites, and as such, Jesus went to them.

The setting – John 4:5-9, Jesus meets the woman

John 4:5-9

Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there.

Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

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.

John 4:10 Jesus makes it personal, takes his time, reaches here where she lives.

John 4:10

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.

John 4:11-15

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? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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 woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

What does Jesus mean by Living Water?

Scripture interprets Scripture – Jesus explains what he means in John 7:37-39, Referencing Isaiah 44:2-3, v6+ and Joel 2:28-29, Jesus is referring to the indwelling Spirit.

John 7:37-39

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Isaiah 44:2-3, 6

Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring... Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Joel 2:28-29

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

John 4:16-18 Jesus exposes her sin, as Nicodemus had to understand his lost state, so does this woman.

John 4:16-18

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

The woman answered and said, I have no husband.

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

John 4:19-24 Is the woman deflecting, or does she really want to know? Jesus respects her question, then teaches beyond it.

John 4:19-20

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

John 4:21-24

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

How is Salvation of the Jews?

In context, the Jews have the truth of salvation, that is, the Scriptures and understanding of them, which the Samaritans lacked, see Romans 3:1-2. There is more to be said of this concept, however. It starts with God promising Abraham that the whole world would be blessed by his descendants in Genesis 22:18. This is expounded in Galatians, especially chapters 3 and 4, as it is a letter written regarding salvation of the Gentiles and their freedom from Jewish Law. Finally, this is also reflected in that the primacy of evangelism to the Jews was a characteristic of Jesus' ministry, as shown in such passages as Matthew 10:5, Matthew 15:24, and Luke 24:46-47.

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

Genesis 22:16-18

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Galatians 3:7-8

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Matthew 10:5

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Matthew 15:24 (Jesus speaks to the Canaanite woman with a possessed daughter)

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Luke 24:46-47

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved (was necessary for) Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

How do we worship “in spirit and in truth?”

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the great commandment which Jesus cites when questioned in Mark 12 and Luke 10. More insightful instruction for Christians is found in John 15, especially verses 4, 8-10

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

John 15:4, 8-10

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 4:25-26 Jesus proclaims himself as Christ, Isn't it interesting that this Samaritan woman was looking for the Messiah?

John 4:25-26

The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

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

We're skipping over **John 4:27-38** pertains to Jesus speaking with his disciples as they return to see him talking with the woman.

John 4:39-42 testifies to the faith and witness of the woman to the townspeople, verses 39 and 41 testify that many Samaritans believed on Him.

John 4:39-42

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.