

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 4

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John.

You might recall that the Holy Spirit inspired John to write his account of the gospel so that we may remember and believe who Jesus Christ is.

And one of the ways he has presented this – is by providing us with a handful encounters that Jesus had during His ministry.

For the past few weeks, we looked closely at one of those encounters – it was an encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus.

Nicodemus was a religious man but he still had a void in his life.

And through his encounter with Jesus – it was revealed to him that the only thing that could fill that void was Jesus Christ.

For the next two weeks, we are going to look at another individual who Jesus had an appointment with.

Like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman also had a void in her life.

She was an empty woman.

She sought satisfaction in places other than the One True God.

And as we will see, it was an emptiness that she constantly tried to fill with her relationships with men.

Nicodemus and the Samaritan women suffered from the same thing – yet they were both so different.

He was rich, she was most likely poor

He was Jewish, she was a Samaritan

He came to Jesus by night, The Samaritan woman will encounter Jesus at noon

He was a strict follower of the law, she – not so much

Yet through this appointment, we will see God's love for all people.

We will see the gospel presented to this woman – just like Jesus presented it to Nicodemus with John 3:16.

Let's pray...

[Jhn 4:1-26 NKJV] 1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

At the end of chapter three, John pointed out that, during this time, the religious rulers were coming to the John the Baptist and his guys, who were baptizing – not because they sincerely wanted to know more about why he was baptizing – they were coming to cause a division between the ministry that he was called to do and Jesus’ ministry.

The religious rulers were trying to make John and his disciples jealous and envious by pointing out that crowds were following Jesus instead of him.

“John, Jesus and His disciples are baptizing up the road – and guess what, many people are showing – way more people than are coming to you John”

And we saw John’s wonderful response – as he understood that his ministry was given to him by grace.

He understood when to step aside.

He understood that it was all about God’s will and not his will.

“He must increase but I must decrease”

So here in the beginning of chapter 4, Jesus decides to leave the area.

He knew that over time, more and more people would flock from John to Him – and it would result with more opposition from the religious rulers.

So He decides to head back to Galilee.

4 But He needed to go through Samaria.

Jesus and His disciples were already baptizing at the Jordan.

The Sea of Galilee dumps into the Jordan.

The quickest way to up to Galilee is to travel along the Jordan River.

However, Jesus decides to take a detour -

It's like me saying, let's all get in our cars, we are going to Tucson, the quickest and most direct route from Nogales would be to go up I19.

And then I said, we need to make a pit stop in Sonoita

John says that Jesus NEEDED to go through Samaria.

He needed to because He had a divine appointment there.

I also had you make a note that divine appointment was in Samaria.

Now, when we studied through 2 Kings, we knew that Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom (Israel).

When God's judgment came upon the Northern Kingdom, God used the Assyrians – and the Assyrians came in and took many of the people captive back to Assyria and then they resettled the area of Samaria with foreigners.

And the remnant Jews intermarried with these foreigners.

So the people of Samaria were descendants of these mixed breeds.

When the people of Judah returned from Babylon and began to rebuild the temple – it was the Samaritans that went out of their way to stop the construction.

So there was great animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans – and it was mutual.

There was cultural animosity as well as religious animosity.

In fact, the Jews regarded the Samaritans as the worst of the human race.

In fact, later on in the Gospel of John (8), the religious rulers are going to accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan – (fighting words)

The Jews avoided Samaria at all cost – that is what makes this encounter special.

Church, why did Jesus have to go through Samaria –

1. God keeps His appointments – he had an appointment with the Samaritan woman
2. To remind us that prejudice is a sin – and there is no room for it among the people of God.

To prejudge someone – that is what prejudice is: by the way they look, by the color of their skin, by the way they talk, by how much money they make, by where are they from.

We would do well, to repent of it and forsake it.

The Samaritans are people that Jesus died for.

The Samaritans are people that He loves supremely and while many people might look down upon them, Jesus looks them directly in the eyes and tells them how much He loves them.

Jesus wasn't interested in the prejudices of the day.

That's not the heart of God.

In fact, He came to abolish them.

Church, never forget – the cross is the great equalizer.

No matter what your status is, no matter where you come from, no matter what your language is – Jesus loves you and He came to die for you.

In Christ, the distinctions are done away with – we are all just followers of Jesus.

We are all messed up and need Jesus – that's the bottom line.

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from [His] journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

Jesus and His disciples arrive in Sychar.

Sychar is a suburb of Shechem – this is where Joseph's tomb is located.

Jesus shows up – His disciples go looking for the nearest Subway – and Jesus waits for them at Jacob's well.

Now, I had you make a note that it was the 6th hour.

This means that it is noon.

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

A Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water – remember, it was noon.

Now, here is what is unusual about this.

No one drew water during the hottest part of the day.

To do so would be foolish.

One either drew water early in the morning – and if the need for more was needed, they would wait until the evening hours when it was cooler.

Now, why is the woman drawing water at noon?

Here is the reason –

The morning meeting of the women at the well was for more than just to draw water.

It was a time to chat & swap stories.

This was the social media during this time.

This is how one knew what was going on in others people's lives.

This poor woman couldn't show her face among the other women because she was the subject of much of their gossip.

So she waited till she knew no one would be there, and then she went to draw water.

The only problem is that on this given day, she ran into a stranger.

Not just any stranger – it was obvious by the way He was dressed that He was a Jew.

And as she approached the well, He asked her for a drink.

Yes, Jesus was tired and thirsty from the trip.

But I want us to understand that the purpose for Jesus asking for a drink is not because He desires water.

He wants her heart.

He wants her to be saved.

9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Not only did Jews not regard Samaritans, it was against all social custom for a man – let alone a Jewish man to even have a conversation with a strange woman.

All conversations had to be done through an intermediate

The problem is that there was no one who would have acted as this woman's intermediate.

She was a social outcast, a misfit, a woman of such poor reputation no one would give her the time of day – again, that is why she is drawing water at noon.

I want you to understand how unreachable this woman was to the religion of that day.

Yet Jesus reaches out to her.

Jesus speaks to her because no one else would.

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

The Samaritan woman has no idea who she is talking to and what He can provide for her.

Remember her question – what kind of Jew would have a conversation with me – a Samaritan.

So Jesus tells her, "I'm the kind of Jew – Who is the very Gift of God (John 3:16) – Who is offering to give you living water – if you ask for it.

Now, keep in mind that she is there to get water from a well.

A well simply hold stagnant water.

Ideally, water from a stream (living water) is preferred over stagnant water.

But the Samaritan water questions how Jesus can offer her living water if He has nothing to draw with.

I had you make a note of this –

Because this is very similar to Nicodemus' response when Jesus told him he had to be born again.

Remember, Nicodemus thought that Jesus was referring to physical rebirth – that is why he said "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Here the Samaritan woman thinks that Jesus is referring to physical "living water".

"Where is this stream that you talk about?"

12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

This wasn't a question so much as a statement: She is being sarcastic here.

She says - "There's no way You're greater than Jacob – Jacob gave us this well – the town has survived on it for years and the water of this well is as good as it gets around here!"

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Now Jesus makes it clear that the water He's speaking of is not literal H2O.

Physical water satisfies the body's thirst for liquid but not the soul's thirst for meaning.

Jesus is talking about spiritual thirst.

He doesn't mean that you'll never drink real water again.

He doesn't mean that you'll never have physical needs anymore.

The thirst Jesus is talking about is deeper than the physical.

It's that deep dissatisfaction that you feel inside of yourself.

It's a gnawing, empty feeling that we often try to fill up with physical things.

If we drink what He has to offer us, the spiritual thirst will be satisfied.

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Now, this is very important for us to grasp.

Because one of the mistakes that we as believers make is we tend to go back to the well we once went to – hoping that it might quench our thirst.

Jesus has a supply that satisfies the soul's thirst.

And once taken, it becomes a new source inside that leads to a whole new life that never ends.

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

The Samaritan woman still doesn't fully grasp what Jesus is saying.

In her mind, she thinks that if Jesus gives her this living water – that means she will never have to come to well to draw water.

That means, no more walk of shame, no more hearing whispers, no more fearing that she might see someone or have to put up with the looks of the people in the village.

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

Why did Jesus tell her to call her husband???

He needed to reveal to the Samaritan woman how she had been trying to quench her thirst through her relationships with men.

Church, there is no true conversion without conviction.

Sin had to be dealt with.

17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 18 "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

The Samaritan woman tells Jesus, "I have no husband"

However, she only provided part of the story.

Jesus took that part truth – and revealed to her the entire truth.

Her entire sin had to be revealed.

Now, I think it is important to note – that Jesus revealed the Samaritan woman's sin but, He did not revel in her sin.

He did not rub it in her face and say, let's talk about Frank or let's talk about Ed for a minute.

He spoke to her in grace and truth like He speaks to you and me.

I know you are a sinner, You know you are a sinner – let's move on.

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you [Jews] say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

There's only one way Jesus could have known about her personal history;

Either someone told Him, or He was a prophet.

She knew no one from Sychar had been talking with Him so by process of elimination, that meant, at least in her eyes, He was a prophet.

If He was a prophet, then He had an inside track on God's Word and God's will.

So the Samaritan woman asks Jesus concerning this debate that the Jews and Samaritans had over where to worship.

The Samaritans said that worship was to be done on Mt Gerazim – while Jews said it had to be done in the temple in Jerusalem.

I believe she asked Jesus this question because the weight of guilt has come down on her.

She wants to make her life right.

She wants to repent – however, she doesn't know whether to offer sacrifices at the temple where the Samaritan's worshipped or where the Jews worshipped.

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

Jesus response to the Samaritan woman – in the near future, it is not going to matter.

You see, a few decades later, the Romans will come and destroy the temple in Jerusalem.

23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 "God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth."**

What Jesus is telling the Samaritan woman is true worship doesn't demand a place. It is not about rituals and ceremonies.

True worship is always about loving God, honoring God, obeying God, it is about serving God from the heart every hour and day until He takes us home.

That is what happened when Jesus Christ died on the cross –

That is what happened as the veil was torn from the top to the bottom.

We have direct access to God

There are no more temples, no more altars, no more sacrifices, no more burning incense.

Jesus ushered in a new era of worship.

One that is not based on externals but on the internals.

All we need to worship God is a genuine heart to worship Him in spirit and truth

I had you make a note of **spirit and truth**

Since God is a Spirit, then He must be worshipped with our own human spirit.

Worship is something that takes place inside of you, not outside of you

It is not based on your outward actions, like singing, lifting your hands, etc.

It is based on whether or not your inner person is in a state of adoration and reverence before God.

If we're going to worship God, it's got to be completely truthful.

What we believe about God has to be the truth.

It's got to be based on the Scriptures, and not some goofball's perversion of them.

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

The Samaritans, they knew the first five books of the bible.

So, even in their false theology, they were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah.

26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [He]."

I asked you to make a note of the word "He"

The word He is not in the original text.

Here in verse 26 – we have Jesus referring to Himself as God

He is referring to Himself as I AM

The same title that He gave Moses at the burning bush

Remember, Moses said, Who should I say sent me – "I AM"

And throughout the gospel of John, we are going to see these I AM statements over and over again.

We are going to cover all the I AM statements at a later time.

I want to finish with this –

As we study the encounter that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman – we find out that He presented her with the gospel.

He revealed to the Samaritan woman with who He is

He revealed to her what He had to offer

And He revealed her with how can she receive it

Church, that is the gospel.

That is the presentation of the gospel in a simple way.

To know who God is

To know what He has to offer

And to know how to attain it

And we have the privilege to share these simple truths to whomever and wherever God sends us.

So that people can enjoy true satisfaction, Jesus style.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'