

## **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 study through the Gospel of John –

And John has been reminding us who Jesus Christ through these divine appointments / these encounters / these conversations that Jesus had with certain individuals.

Last week we looked at the appointment that Jesus had with a certain Samaritan woman by the well.

We saw that this woman had a problem, she was shunned by society

She had a troubled pass

She had a need / she was spiritually thirsty

She was an empty woman who was trying to fill this emptiness in her life through relationships with men.

Jesus meets with her and gives her the gospel

He revealed who He was

He revealed what He had to offer – living water

He revealed to her how to get it – by asking

He also revealed to her the need for repentance as Jesus referenced her past.

*“for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband;.”*

However, the last thing He revealed to her was how to truly worship Him.

That is going to our study this morning, how did the woman respond to what Jesus told her – did she simply go home and continue to live her life or was her life transformed by her conversation with Jesus and she became a true worshipper of Him.

Let's pray...

How do we know whether or not we are a true worshipper of Jesus Christ?

Now, I am not talking about salvation.

I am talking about being a true worshipper.

How do we know if we are a true worshipper of God?

In our study last week, you may remember the Samaritan woman after she asked Jesus for some of that living water, after Jesus revealed her past to her.

What did the woman want to do? She wanted to worship.

However, she did not know how.

Do I go to Mt Gerizem or do I have to go down to Jerusalem???

What did Jesus tell her?

Jesus revealed to her how to be a true worshipper –

Remember, Jesus told her, “You don’t even know what you worship”

You are simply going through the motions because of religion and traditions.

You see, real worship starts -

Where?: real worship is not based on a location – it is done in our hearts.

How: we worship Him in Spirit and in truth

Why: because God calls us to worship Him

You see church, we were created to worship

We all worship something, it is in our DNA

The main question becomes, “What or who do we worship?”

Worship according to Jesus should be a lifestyle; it should be something that we do 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week until He takes us home.

If Sunday morning is the only time we set aside to worship God, we have not truly grasped what we have been called to do.

If we think that worship is all about singing songs and lifting hands – again, we are not grasping what it means to be a true worshipper.

God does not regard our voices, He hears our hearts – think about that for a moment.

If our hearts do not sing, we have not sung at all.

You see church, we can sing and at the same time, not worship

We can pray with our lips and at the same time not worship

We can make an offering / tithe / serve in ministry and at the same time not worship

Our hearts has to be in it – we simply can't go through the motions.

So let's see what the woman does.

**[Jhn 4:27-42 NKJV] 27 And at this [point] His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"**

The disciples had just returned from gathering lunch and they return to the well and they were surprised that Jesus was having a conversation with this woman.

Not only was it socially wrong for a man to speak to a strange woman out in public – she was a Samaritan woman and a Samaritan woman with a bad reputation

**28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.**

There are a few things I want you to take notice.

The first thing I want you to notice is that as she left the well – she went to go tell the men in the city.

Now, the reason that she went to go tell the men and not the women of the city was that her credibility with the women was already shot.

She was already shunned by them – they didn't want anything to do with this husband thief / this woman of bad reputation

That is why she was getting water during the hottest part of the day.

They never would have listened to her.

Now, her boldness in going to the men (remember, there was no social interaction between strange women and men out in public), along with her report, was enough to stir them to curiosity, and so they went to check Jesus out.

Now, I also had you make a note that she left something at the well.

John was an eyewitness to all of this and as the Holy Spirit inspired him to him to write the gospel that bears his name, the Holy Spirit reminds him – make sure you note that she left her water pot behind.

You see, her water pot is what she took to the well that day to fill up with water and hurry back home before anyone saw her.

And this was something that she would have to do every day – because eventually, the water pot would run out of water.

That is why Jesus said in verse 13 - “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

So by leaving her water pot behind, we see the living water that Jesus had promised, had become hers.

Her spiritual thirst had been fully satisfied -

Church, God has made us for Himself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Him.

Many people go through their entire lives confusing the longing of their soul for God with the desires of their flesh for pleasure.

They search for satisfaction in dozens of things

But that search will never end until they come to Christ.

And when they do, they will leave behind all the other things.

In fact, they will have to because once they come to faith in Christ, they will find an undeniable urge to tell others, and that urge some with such urgency they won't want to be weighed down with anything that would get in the way.

Imagine if she would have returned to the city carrying her water pot, “Guys, I found someone who gave me living water, for the first time in my life – I found satisfaction and meaning”

Their first reaction would be pour me some of that water from your water pot

Then she would say, oh no! the water in the water pot doesn’t contain living water.

Which then would have led to their response – if you were truly given living water, then why are you still carrying around your water pot????

The sad truth is that there are many believers that still carry around their water pot.

And the non believers that they have been witnessing to – they see you still carrying your water pot and in their minds, their thinking, “If Jesus truly fills their emptiness, if Jesus truly quenches their spiritual thirst – why are they still carrying around their water pots filled with things that don’t truly satisfy”

Church, we should leave our water pots behind.

Those water pots only weigh us down and hinder our testimony.

As I was doing this study, I found it interesting that the Greek word that is used here for “left” as it speaks of the woman’s water pot

Is a word that means to “send away” and it speaks of a husband divorcing his wife; to let go.

After her encounter with Jesus, the Samaritan woman is now finished with divorcing men and has now divorced herself from her water pot.

**31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him [anything] to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**

As the Samaritan woman had gone into town, the disciples start distributing the lunch they had gathered while Jesus had His appointment with the Samaritan woman.

And the first thing that they notice is that Jesus doesn't appear to be hungry any more –

What Jesus is doing here is that He is living out what He'd just taught the Samaritan woman.

She came to draw literal water – He offered her eternal, spiritual water that was even more important.

Jesus tells His disciples while physical food is necessary for the sustaining of physical life, it's even more important to obey the demands of the Spirit and perform the will of God.



Jesus wasn't saying that food and drink and rest are not important. Instead, He wanted His disciples to know that life was more than those things; that man does not eat by bread alone.

He wanted them and us to know that obedience nourishes the soul as food does the body.

And it is obedience to His will that makes us a true worshipper of Christ.

And church, we accomplish this by finding out what God's will is for our individual lives and finishing what we have been called to do

**[Jer 29:11 NKJV] 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

For Jesus, He said that He was satisfied when HE did God's will for Him and when HE finished the work.

He knew what God had specifically for Him.

The more we walk with God and yield ourselves to God, the more we discover, step by step, the things that God wants specifically for our life.

**35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and [then] comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!**

'There are still four months and [then] comes the harvest'?

This was a very familiar proverb during this day.

It had the idea that there is no need to hurry to do certain things because things take time and waiting is part of life.

It's the mentality that we have to sit around and wait for 4 months for the wheat harvest to go from green to white – signaling that it is ready and then the works begins.

Jesus doesn't want His disciples to have this mentality.

And He doesn't want us to have that mentality either.

We tend to push aside what God has called us to do.

Maybe later – not now.

The time is now, God desires that we become true worshippers **now and obey** what He has called us to do.

Not when we retire from our jobs

Not when we get free time

Not when it is convenient for us.

We do it now.

Sometimes God's harvests don't take any time at all.

This woman found Jesus and believed right then and there.

She has then taken the harvest, sown seeds with the men of the city, and now they too are ready to believe.

I had you make a note of the word “look”

Because the Greek word means to behold, look upon, view attentively, contemplate

Earlier in our study we saw that the disciples marveled when they found Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman.

Those words are very similar in the Greek

What they really needed to “marvel” at was the harvest in front of them.

What they really needed to marvel was at the men who were coming from the city that were in need of the living water that only Jesus could provide.

He wanted them to see a needy soul created in God's image, thirsty for love & meaning.

He didn't want them to see a pack of despised half-breed Samaritans – He wanted them to see spiritual grain that could bring glory to God in the fertile spiritual soil of Samaria.

The disciples needed to have a heart for those they reached out to and talked to personally, just as He had with the Samaritan woman.

Church, God has strategically positioned you and me in a place in the harvest.

That's our post.

We need to lift up our eyes from our self-interest, from our own prejudices, from anything that would eclipse the harvest and SEE the people around us as God wants us to see them.

We must be more like Christ – and do as He did.

**36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."**

Jesus here is referring to those who put in the work –

As the disciples are looking at the spiritual harvest that is coming towards them – that harvest is a result of the work that was put in by others.

John the Baptist

Prophets

And generations of faithful parents who raised their children with faith in God

The time had come to bring to fullness all the preparation these faithful ones had labored so hard to produce.

What Jesus said to those first disciples is equally true for “us” His last disciples.

The fields are still white for harvest.

**39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I [ever] did."**

The woman was amazed not only that Jesus knew all the facts of her life, but that He loved her even knowing the facts of her life.

We sometimes fear that if someone knew all that I ever did, they could not love us, but Jesus loved this woman and He loves us.

This is what propelled her to go into the city and tell everyone.

“I found the Messiah” “I found the One who knows everything about me, He knows everything I ever did and guess what, He doesn’t hate me, He didn’t tell me to get lost, in fact, He gave me living water and He could do the same for you.

Come and see!!!

**40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard [Him] and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."**

When the Samaritan woman went into the city – we call that her testimony

Based on that testimony, many believed Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

However, that faith led to action on their part to go check Him out for themselves.

But once they encountered Jesus themselves, their faith was no longer secondhand.

It was in Jesus Himself

Church,

This is our goal, not for people to believe in Jesus because of what we say, but for them to come to Him and find out for themselves.

When we share Jesus with people, it is best to simply describe what we've come to know about Him, sharing how He's changed us and brought life and purpose.

People can argue with the bible all they want –

However, no one can argue against our testimony.

That testimony will move some to check out Jesus on their own.

It's that encounter that brings real & lasting change.

It's that encounter that leads us to be a true worshipper.

To pursue what God has called us to do

To tell the world what God has done in our lives.

To be transformed like the Samaritan woman.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

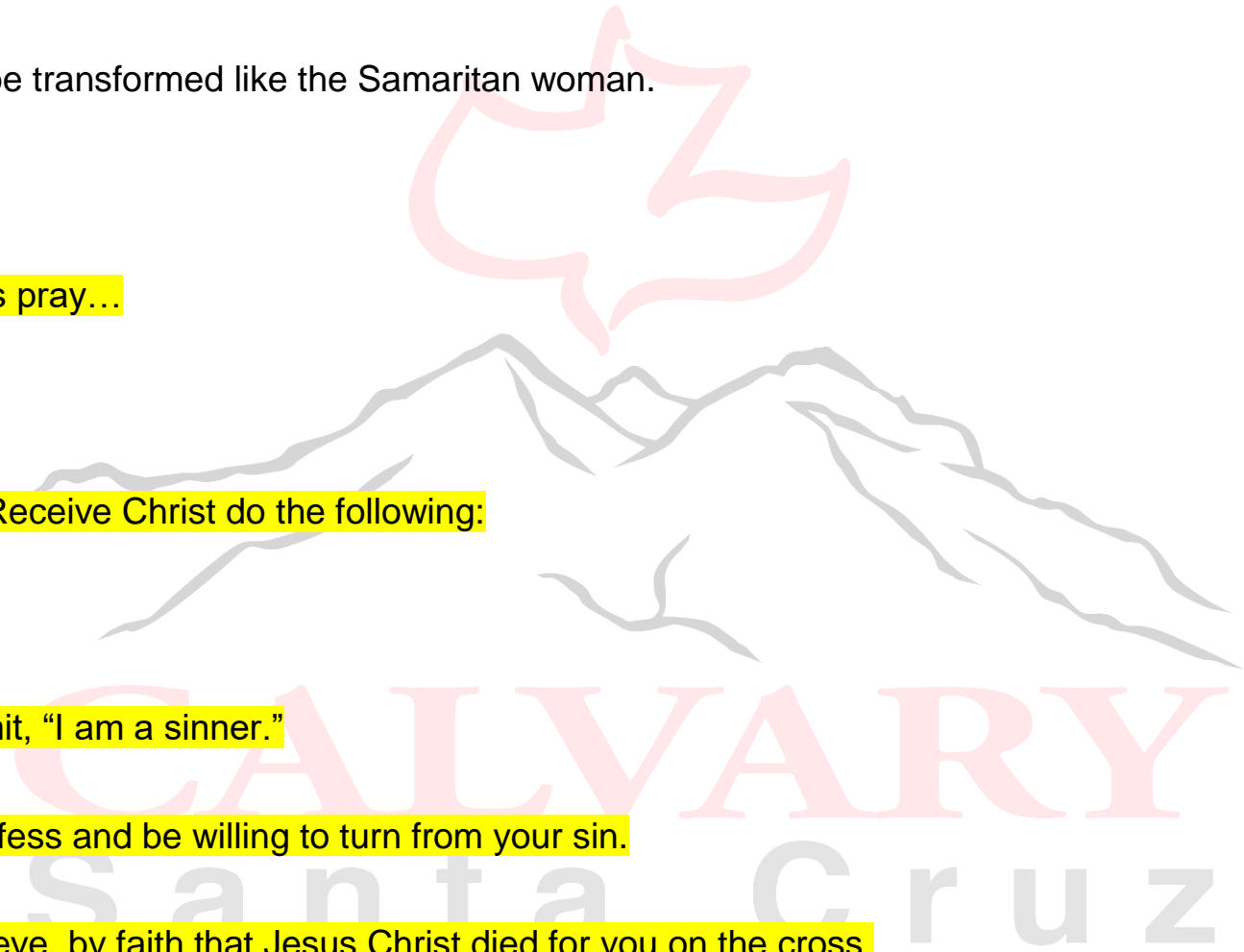
Admit, "I am a sinner."

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.

Ending

Always remember,

Our goal is not to have people follow us.

Our goal is not to "fix" everyone around us.

Our goal is to have people follow Jesus.

We want people to say, just like the Samaritans "we ourselves have heard Him ..."



CALVARY  
S a n t a C r u z

[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.'