

the Gospel according to

JOHN



SESSION 06:

John 4: Jesus & the Samaritan woman

“Living water & true worship”

JOHN 4:1-26

Overview:

Jesus' second conversation with an unbeliever is a one-on-one conversation with an outcast woman of the Samaritans. The Jews and the Samaritans had grown so far apart that for the most part they had practically nothing to do with each other. This woman was not looking for Jesus, but there's no doubt she desperately wanted a better life. She had been trapped in sin and a culture of confusion for probably just about her entire life. Her life was dry, dull, and meaningless; and Jesus went specifically out of the way to talk to her. What's interesting, is that she was a woman of no prominence (seemingly) and yet Jesus knew that she would be the key into the hearts of many men and women of the Samaritans. This is truly an amazing story on so many levels...

READ JOHN 4:1-15

Getting the Facts straight:

- Where must Jesus needs go through?
- Where does Jesus stop to rest?
- Who came to draw water?
- Who starts the conversation? What is said...?
- What is the woman's response?
- What 2 things does Jesus say that if the woman knew she would be asking him for a drink?
- What 2 things does the woman respond to this statement?
- What does Jesus say about the water of the well?
- What 2 things does he say about the water that he gives?
- What is the woman's response? ... and for what 2 reasons?

Going Deeper

- What can we learn about Jesus & his ministry based on verses 1-4?
- Why do you think John gives this historical information in vs 5-6a?
- What things can we learn from Jesus' opening line?
- What important lessons can we draw from the historical realities that the woman points out in vs 9?
- What can we learn about Jesus' intentions and tactics based on his follow up statement in vs 10?
- What else can we discern about Jesus based on vs13-14?
- What kind of spirit(s) do you think the woman has based on what we have read so far through vs15?

❖ IMPORTANT: Mat 15:24; Mark 2:17; Luke 19:10; Isa 41:17-18

KEY POINTS:

- **Jesus “must needs go through Samaria.”** Jesus is living his life with a mission. He is here to do his Father’s will and to seek and to save that which is lost. He is not here to build a big earthly inheritance. He knows what is truly valuable: people. He is willing to go out of his way and break the cultural “norms” of his day in order to reach out to a lost and dry and thirsty soul.
- **“Give me to drink.”** Jesus starts the conversation. He calls her to action & service. He uses his physical need and her physical ability to engage her so that he can ultimately draw her to the spiritual water.
- **Living Water.** This woman has probably drunk water every day of her life, but she has never tasted the living water that Jesus can give. The living water that Jesus gives can quench your thirst for ever. If only she knew the gift of God (his Spirit) and the One that she is talking with.
- **“Sir, give me this water...”** At first glance it looks like this woman is ready to receive Christ. But Jesus sees her heart. She is still just looking for a convenient quick fix. But her only hope is true repentance...

READ JOHN 4:16-26

Getting the Facts straight:

- What is Jesus' response to her desire in vs 16?
- What does Jesus say about her response in vs 17? What details did she conveniently leave out?
- What does the woman perceive?
- What first truth does Jesus reveal about worship in vs 21?
- What is the current reality (of their time) of worship in vs 22?
- Truths about worship in vs 23-24
 - Who will worship?... Who will they worship?
 - How will they worship?... Why will they worship this way?
- Who does the woman know is coming? What will he do?
- What is Jesus' final response to the woman?

Going Deeper

- What are some things that Jesus' response in vs 16 imply?
 - What things do you find significant about vs 17?
 - What things do you think that Jesus is trying to accomplish through his word of knowledge in vs 18?
 - What does the woman's statement in vs 20 and Jesus' response to her in vs 22 tell you about the importance of spiritual truth and understanding true history?
 - Before Jesus rebukes and corrects her in vs 22, what does he do in vs 21? ...and why do you think this is wise?
 - What vital important truths can we learn from vs 23-24?
 - What is significant about vs 26 when compared w/20:11-18?
- ❖ WORSHIP: Amos 5:21-27; Jer 16:10-11; Mat 7:6-9; Rev 14:6-7

KEY POINTS:

- **Her broken life.** This woman has experienced broken relationship after broken relationship. She is living without joy. She is dry and thirsty for love and meaning. But the problem is that her sin and culture have kept her in darkness for years. They have kept her in a fleshy, carnal life in error without God. But that's about to change.
- **True Worship.** You can't worship God however you choose to. The true God is a real Spirit being, and he reveals how we are to approach and worship him. He chose the Jews to reveal the truth to in the past (Old Testament). He chose Jerusalem to be the place of worship on earth. But now that's about to change. This new worship of the Father is not going to be limited by place or race. The Father is seeking for true worshippers from all across the earth. These true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Jesus is here to bring us back to the Father in acceptable worship. He is the Messiah that will tell us all things that we need in order to come to the Father.

CONCLUSION & MOVING FORWARD

Jesus clearly set the tone from the beginning of his ministry that he came to bring spiritual truth to people on earth. There is no hope in the flesh. There is no hope in men's cultures or religions (even the true religion that God gave). The only hope is for men to be born again by God's Spirit. This spiritual birth is the only way that we can truly know and worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God does not desire for mankind to be lost in darkness and confusion. He wants us to come to the truth that he reveals through Jesus so that we might enter his kingdom. One thing we will see moving forward is that Jesus will never compromise the truth. The truth of God will be mankind's only hope. And because of this reality, we will see Jesus go to great lengths and suffer much, so that people can repent and truly believe in HIM.