

The Samaritan Woman and the Kingdom of God (John 4:1-42)

Notice that this is a long section. I will move fast in class so please look over the outline and be ready with any questions you may have. We may not get through all 42 verses in class Sunday.

I. Jesus Brings the Kingdom of God (4:1-26)

A. Jesus Has a Divine Appointment with the Samaritan Woman (1-6)

1. The Pharisees turn their attention to Jesus (1-2)

- a. Remember the Pharisees were upset with John the Baptist because he was drawing people away to follow him.
- b. Here Jesus becomes aware that he is now attracting the Pharisees' attention.
- c. Jesus' popularity is growing and he is bringing in more disciples than John
- d. Jesus refuses to allow a spirit of competition between himself and John – instead he departs for Galilee.

2. Jesus had to go through Samaria (3-5)

- a. Samaria was between Judea and Galilee but the Jews hated the Samaritans and thought of them as unclean so most would take the longer way to avoid contact.



i. Who are the Samaritans? – When the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms (the Northern was called Israel or Samaria and the Southern was called Judah), The Assyrians came and destroyed the Northern Kingdom, deporting most of the people. Some Jews were left there and Assyria brought settlers into that land from all over their empire. The new people began mixing and marrying with the Jews there and the result was a half breed people called the Samaritans. For a Jew living in Judea, the Samaritans were unclean and touching or speaking with them would be seen as taboo.

ii. Jesus “NEEDED” to go through Samaria because he had a divine appointment there with a woman at a well.

iii. This woman was a complete outcast in every sense of the word. She was a woman, she was a Samaritan, and she was highly immoral in her lifestyle. No self-respecting Rabbi would ever have anything to do with her, but Jesus must meet her – to transform her and bring her into the Kingdom of God

Isn't that good news for those of us who understand our own sinfulness? No matter how bad or outcast we are, Jesus still comes for us. He has to go through Samaria – He has to come through all the uncleanness to get to where you are and bring you out.

3. Jesus was wearied from His Journey (6)

a. This should always remind us that Jesus was 100% human and 100% God.

i. It is easy for us to look upon Jesus and think that he never suffered or went through the daily struggles and weaknesses that we go through. This is not the case. Jesus was weary in the same way you would be weary from walking in the heat of the Palestinian day.

ii. This is important because later in this chapter, Jesus will not eat because he focused on doing God's work. This doesn't mean that Jesus didn't get hungry but that Jesus was hungry but felt it more important to do the Father's will.

b. the sixth hour – this would be noon. Jews counted hours from 6a.m. The sixth hour of the day would be 12:00pm.

B. Jesus Displays Grace to the Samaritan Woman (7-9)

1. The Samaritan Woman Came for Water at Midday (7a)

a. This shows the shame and outcast of the woman

b. Women normally came for water when the day was cooler – in the early evening. This woman came during midday when the sun was hot so she would not run into anyone. She was

probably an outcast because of her many husbands and fornications.

2. Jesus asks the Samaritan Woman for a drink (8)

- a. This was simply not done!
- b. Rabbi's didn't talk to women and no Jewish person would talk to a Samaritan – much less drink from their water pot.
- c. Samaritans were seen as unclean, therefore their drinking vessels were ceremonial unclean. If a Jew drank from a Samaritan's pot, he would be unclean.
- d. Besides all that, no self-respecting Jewish man would ever interact with a known fornicator and adulteress.
- e. Yet, by saying these simple words, "give me a drink" – Jesus was showing this woman an enormous amount of grace and love. No one else would have ever spoken to her. His disciples even marveled at this later (v. 27)

3. The Woman Herself Questions Jesus' Actions (9)

- a. Even she couldn't believe what Jesus was doing

C. Jesus Demonstrates the Woman's Plight (10-12)

1. Jesus Reveals the Woman's Ignorance and Need (10)

- a. Jesus tells her that if she actually knew who he was, she would have asked him for living water
 - i. He implies that she doesn't know who He is
 - ii. He implies that she needs something she doesn't have
 - iii. He implies that only he can give it to her
 - iv. He implies that only he can fulfill her need

2. Jesus' Offer of Living Water is misunderstood by the Woman (11-12)

- a. The woman misunderstands Jesus' "water" (11)
 - i. Instead of talking about the "living water" which symbolizes salvation in the OT (Jer. 17:13, Zech 14:8, Isa. 12:3) she assumes he is speaking of regular water that will fulfill her need.
 - ii. She doesn't understand where he will get this water
NOTICE: Jesus is speaking about fulfilling her great need of salvation, yet all she can see is the need to fulfill her immediate physical need. We do this all the time. We want God to fulfill our immediate need and we overlook the fact that He has given provision for all our needs.
- b. The woman misunderstands Jesus' Identity (12)
 - i. She wonders who this man thinks he is and if he is greater than their father Jacob.
 - the water that gives them life (keeps them from thirsting to death) comes from the well Jacob dug. They get water from it every day.
 - ii. NOTE: The Samaritans accepted only the first 5 books of the Old Testament (called the Pentateuch – Genesis

through Deuteronomy) Therefore, their basis and location of worship is from those books. They did not accept the stories of Jerusalem, David, Solomon, the Temple, etc.

iii. When she said, “are you greater than Jacob?” she was asking if Jesus thought himself greater than the founder and patriarch of Israel. (Of course he is greater!)

3. Jesus Offers the Woman Salvation (13-15)

a. Jesus’ water will satisfy her needs perfectly (13-14)

i. Jesus tries to make her understand what he is talking about.

- the water she desires will never satisfy. She will have to continually return to the well to refill her water

- The water she desires cannot fulfill her need

- We often desire the things of the world that can never satisfy us completely – yet we continually return for more.

ii. Jesus offers her eternal life (14)

- The water he gives will become a spring or a well that springs up unto eternal life.

- Here Jesus is referring to the many OT passages that show rivers of water, wells, springs, and sprinkling of water as symbols of the salvation of God. (Most prominent is Ezekiel 36:25-27)

b. Jesus’ “water” is desired by the woman (although she still doesn’t understand) (15)

i. She thinks Jesus’ water will fill her physical need for water

ii. In a way, all her needs will be filled but she does not see the big picture yet.

iii. His water will fulfill her greatest need, every other need is secondary.

4. Jesus Addresses the Woman’s Sin (16-18)

a. The woman has asked for the water that Jesus gives

b. The woman thinks it is a remedy for her physical needs

c. The woman doesn’t understand that she cannot have the benefits of Christ without addressing her sin

i. this is often the way we are. We want the benefits of Christ and eternal life, but we don’t want to repent of our sin. We don’t want our life exposed. We don’t want to come to grips with the fact that our sin is unacceptable before God.

d. Jesus tells her to bring her husband (16)

i. She asks Jesus for living water and the first thing he says to her is to bring her husband. He is getting to the

root of her sin and exposing the thing that keeps her from a relationship with God.

- She answers, "I have no husband." Notice she does not repent of her sinful lifestyle. She gives just enough information to get by.

e. Jesus exposes her sin (17)

i. Jesus knows her heart and her life

ii. She can hide nothing from him

iii. He knows of her immoral life both past and present

D. Jesus Dismisses the Woman's "Religion" (19-24)

1. The Woman Responds to Her Sin with Religious Facts (19-20)

a. She admits that Jesus is a prophet (19)

i. He must be to have know about her

ii. He is much much more than a prophet

b. She Identifies the fact that the Jews and Samaritans have different views about where true worship takes place (20)

i. Since Samaritans didn't accept the entire Old Testament (just the first five books) the only place of worship they knew is Mount Gerazim - Here, Abraham and Jacob entered the Promised Land (Gen. 12:6; 33:18). Jacob built an altar, dug a well, and purchased a burial ground at Shechem. The Israelites used it for a burial ground for the bones of Joseph (Josh. 24:32). This is the most holy place for the Samaritans, while the Jews believed worship was only to be performed in Jerusalem at the Temple.

- *Why would she bring this up in response to Jesus talking about her sinful lifestyle? Maybe she was demonstrating that she had some religious understanding even though she was sinful. She may have been attempting to show Jesus that it didn't matter about her sinful life – the Jews didn't accept her even if she was not a wretched sinner.*

2. Jesus Dispels Her Religious Doubts (21-24)

NOTE: Jesus will not allow her religious misunderstandings to stand in the way of her salvation. She cannot sidestep the question because she believes there is no hope anyway. There is hope for her and for you no matter what impossibility you think is present.

a. Worship is Not Confined to a Location (21)

i. Worship is not solely in Jerusalem or Gerazim (the mountain) – She cannot use this as an excuse

b. Worship is done with true Knowledge of God (22)

i. The Jews know the God they worship

- this is because they had all of Scripture to tell them about God

- Samaritans only accepted the first 5 books

- Jews were the people through whom salvation comes
- Jesus meant that the Messiah who would bring salvation would come through the Jews.

c. Worship is Done in Spirit and Truth (23-24)

i. True worshipers worship in Spirit and Truth

- Worship isn't confined to a location
- Worship is done in the Spirit – Remember in chapter 1, John told us that Jesus is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit that we can commune with God. It doesn't matter where we are, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that Spirit is in direct communion with God.
- Worship is done in Truth – Only those who accept the truth about God, which he has revealed to us in Scripture, are worshipping the true God.

For example – those who deny the Son cannot truly worship the Father. Those who deny their sin before God's holiness cannot truly worship, etc.

ii. True Worshipers are what the Father is Seeking (23)

E. Jesus Discloses Himself to the Woman (25-26)

1. The Woman expresses a Belief in a Coming Messiah (25)

- a. She understands what Jesus is saying – there is coming a deliverer who will bring the salvation of God
- b. This deliverer will reveal the perfect will and work of God

2. Jesus Reveals His Identity (26)

- a. Jesus said, "I who speak to you am he"
- b. Jesus' exact words in Greek are "ego eimi"
 - i. He says, "I am"
 - ii. This is a common name Jesus uses in John's gospel which is a reference to God's words in the burning bush (Exodus 3) – I am that I am.
 - iii. Jesus is God in human flesh – He is the I am
 - He is the one who brings salvation and life
 - He is the one that fulfills every need

Verses 27-42 continue the thought by showing the change in the woman and the misunderstandings of the disciples. However, a 6 page outline is probably enough for the week. We will continue this line of thought next week.