

John Chapter Four

Read John 4:1-30 – The Samaritan Woman

v1. “WHEN THEREFORE THE LORD KNEW HOW THE PHARISEES HAD HEARD JESUS MADE AND BAPTIZED MORE DISCIPLES THAN JOHN,”

While in the latter part of chapter three we see the potential for factions between the followers of John and the followers of Jesus the majority of the ruling party of Judea didn't believe either one. We know from our study their attitude toward Jesus and in his questioning of them he shows us their attitude toward John as well:

Mark 11:30-31 “THE BAPTISM OF JOHN, WAS *it* FROM HEAVEN, OR OF MEN? ANSWER ME. AND THEY REASONED WITH THEMSELVES, SAYING, IF WE SHALL SAY, FROM HEAVEN; HE WILL SAY, WHY THEN DID YE NOT BELIEVE HIM?”

The time that John had spoken of in our earlier study has come:

John 3:28 “YE YOURSELVES BEAR ME WITNESS, THAT I SAID, I AM NOT THE CHRIST, BUT THAT I AM SENT BEFORE HIM.” **v.30** “HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.”

v.2 “(THOUGH JESUS HIMSELF BAPTIZED NOT, BUT HIS DISCIPLES,)”

When we see the controversy that arose at Corinth:

I Corinthians 1:14-15 “I THANK GOD THAT I BAPTIZED NONE OF YOU, BUT CRISPUS AND GAIUS; LEST ANY SHOULD SAY THAT I HAD BAPTIZED IN MINE OWN NAME.”

We can imagine the controversy that would arise between disciples who were baptized by Jesus and those who were baptized by others. Even when the baptizing was done at his direction.

v.3 “HE LEFT JUDAEA, AND DEPARTED AGAIN INTO GALILEE.”

With his popularity growing and building among the people to the point that he has now baptized more people than John, Jesus has attracted the attention of the Pharisees. It is too early in his ministry to deal with the kinds of problems that this situation would create, so he does the prudent thing and returns to Galilee.

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v.4 "AND HE MUST NEEDS GO THROUGH SAMARIA."

The scripture simply states that he had to go through Samaria without telling us anything about why this was necessary. There were normally two routes that people used to travel from Judea to Galilee. One crossed the River Jordan near Gilgal and went up the east side of the river. This kept the Jews from coming in contact with the hated Samaritans. If they went through Samaria, there were several routes that they could be used. The scripture also tells us which route that he took.

v.5 "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."

We may not remember the name but should remember the event from our study of Genesis. When Jacob returned to Canaan:

Genesis 33:18-19 "AND JACOB CAME TO SHALEM, A CITY OF SHECHEM, WHICH *is* IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, WHEN HE CAME FROM PADANARAM; AND PITCHED HIS TENT BEFORE THE CITY. AND HE BOUGHT A PARCEL OF A FIELD, WHERE HE HAD SPREAD HIS TENT, AT THE HAND OF THE CHILDREN OF HAMOR, SHECHEM'S FATHER, FOR AN HUNDRED PIECES OF MONEY."

This is also the location where the bones of Joseph were buried and if you look at a map of the tribes of Israel it is also in the tribe of Manasseh.

Joshua 24:32 "AND THE BONES OF JOSEPH, WHICH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BROUGHT UP OUT OF EGYPT, BURIED THEY IN SHECHEM, IN A PARCEL OF GROUND WHICH JACOB BOUGHT OF THE SONS OF HAMOR THE FATHER OF SHECHEM FOR AN HUNDRED PIECES OF SILVER: AND IT BECAME THE INHERITANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH."

v.6 "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."

This well is well known to archaeologists, having been visited and measured in 1839, 1866, 1879 and at other times even before these dates. I found a picture of the well taken in 1934 and today this well is inside of a Greek Orthodox Church.

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Apparently from a personal visit at an earlier time, J. W. McGarvey writes: "Jacob's well is still there about one hundred yards from the foot of Mt. Gerizim, which rises high above it to the west. The well is a perfect cylinder, of good size, smoothly dressed, and nicely fitted together. It is an excellent piece of masonry. Its depth was stated by the earliest modern who visited it (Maundrel) at one hundred five feet, and it then contained fifteen feet of water..."

Because it was about noon and they had been traveling Jesus stops to rest.

v7. "THERE COMETH A WOMAN OF SAMARIA TO DRAW WATER: JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, GIVE ME TO DRINK."

As we should remember from of study of the time "Between the Testaments" the Samaritans were a mixture of those people imported by Assyria and the Israelites left behind.

II Kings 17:24 "AND THE KING OF ASSYRIA BROUGHT *men* FROM BABYLON, AND FROM CUTHAH, AND FROM AVA, AND FROM HAMATH, AND FROM SEPHARVIAM, AND PLACED *them* IN THE CITIES OF SAMARIA INSTEAD OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: AND THEY POSSESSED SAMARIA, AND DWELT IN THE CITIES THEREOF."

These people at times had worshipped both God and the gods of the Assyrians. The Jews refused all association with them as equals or as worshippers of God.

v8. "(FOR HIS DISCIPLES WERE GONE AWAY UNTO THE CITY TO BUY MEAT.)"

When Jews took one of the western routes between Judea and Galilee, it was necessary for them to find food and shelter during their journey. These needs obviously brought them in contact with the Samaritans. This is one of the reasons that they frequently took the longer, more difficult route that ran east of the Jordan River.

v9. "THEN SAITH THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA UNTO HIM, HOW IS IT THAT THOU, BEING A JEW, ASKEST DRINK OF ME, WHICH AM AN WOMAN OF SAMARIA? FOR THE JEWS HAVE NO DEALINGS WITH THE SAMARITANS."

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This woman was surprised that Jesus would speak kindly with her or even ask her for a favor. The enmity that Jews felt toward the Samaritans was also exhibited by the Samaritans against the Jews. As Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem we find in:

Luke 9:52-53 “AND SENT MESSENGERS BEFORE HIS FACE: AND THEY WENT, AND ENTERED INTO A VILLAGE OF THE SAMARITANS, TO MAKE READY FOR HIM. AND THEY DID NOT RECEIVE HIM, BECAUSE HIS FACE WAS AS THOUGH HE WOULD GO TO JERUSALEM.”

This attitude of superiority, the prejudice against people just because of their ethnic background, their economic status, or for whatever reason was one of the world's problems that Jesus came to remove from His people. Peter told Cornelius:

Acts 10:28 “AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, YE KNOW HOW THAT IT IS AN UNLAWFUL THING FOR A MAN THAT IS A JEW TO KEEP COMPANY, OR COME UNTO ONE OF ANOTHER NATION; BUT GOD HATH SHOWED ME THAT I SHOULD NOT CALL ANY MAN COMMON OR UNCLEAR.”

This woman did not refuse Jesus the water he requested but rather acted surprised that he would approach her.

v10. “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER, IF THOU KNOWEST 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.”

What gift of God is Jesus talking about?

Isaiah 12:2-3 “BEHOLD, GOD *is* MY SALVATION; I WILL TRUST, AND NOT BE AFRAID: FOR THE LORD **JEHOVAH** *is* MY STRENGTH AND *my* SONG; HE ALSO IS BECOME MY SALVATION. THEREFORE WITH JOY SHALL YE DRAW WATER OUT OF THE WELLS OF SALVATION.”

And who represents those “WELLS OF SALVATION” that source of “LIVING WATER”?

Zechariah 13:1 “IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A FOUNTAIN OPENED TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM FOR SIN AND FOR UNCLEANNESS.”

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That “FOUNTAIN” of “LIVING WATERS” is, of course, Jesus Christ. Thus the basis for the hymn we sing about the “fountain free”.

v11. “THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, SIR, THOU HAST NOTHING TO DRAW WITH, AND THE WELL IS DEEP: FROM WHENCE THEN HAS THOU THAT LIVING WATER?”

The woman to whom Jesus is speaking doesn't understand what he means and responds about how difficult it is to get water out of this well. As we noted before the well was about 100 feet deep. Her mind was upon material things, she knew about literal water but not about the water of life of which Jesus is telling her. So she asks this question:

v12. “ART THOU GREATER THAN OUR FATHER JACOB, WHICH GAVE US THE WELL, AND DRANK THEREOF HIMSELF, AND HIS CHILDREN, AND HIS CATTLE?”

This well provided by Jacob, the father of all the Israelites, had slacked their thirst for about 2000 years. The woman knew of its tradition and the Samaritan people revered Jacob and still traced their ancestry, if they had any Israelite background at all, to Jacob. I suppose this may also be some of the reason that the Jews hated them so, they claimed a common heritage.

v13. “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER, WHOEVER DRINKETH OF THIS WATER SHALL THIRST AGAIN:”

Jesus, trying to teach her of heavenly things, again directs their discussion away from the material water to the spiritual water of life. The water from the well will only slake their thirst temporarily, we always get thirsty again.

v14. “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 water that Jesus was offering would stay with the one who drank it forever and provide eternal life. This water would be a perpetual spring, or fountain within the soul, not only sustaining spiritual life but also preventing our ever thirsting again. The analogy of water as the source of everlasting life is common among in both prophecy and in the teaching of Jesus:

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John 6:35 “AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE: HE THAT COMETH TO ME SHALL NEVER HUNGER; AND HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME SHALL NEVER THIRST.”

John 7:38-39 “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 JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED.”

We find this analogy of living waters given to sustain eternal life in John's description of heaven as well:

Revelation 22:1 “AND HE SHOWED ME A PURE RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL, PROCEEDING OUT OF THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB.”

v15. “THE WOMAN SAID UNTO HIM, SIR, GIVE ME THIS WATER, THAT I THIRST NOT, NEITHER COME HITHER TO DRAW.”

The woman understood the concept of receiving living water that would sustain her physical body. But she did not understand the spiritual application Jesus was telling her about and applied his words to physical thirst. She thought that if she had these “LIVING WATERS” she would no longer need to come to the well to draw water.

v16. “JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, GO, CALL THY HUSBAND, AND COME HITHER.”

Now we begin to see Jesus purpose. It has nothing to do with physical thirst or physical water. He is trying to get her to understand who he was so he seeks to reach her another way. He knew her condition, he knew her character. This provided him a way to demonstrate unto her his divine nature and gain her attention to spiritual matters. He did something all teachers must do; he suited his instruction to her capabilities and level of understanding.

v17. “THE WOMAN ANSWERED AND SAID, I HAVE NO HUSBAND. JESUS SAID UNTO HER, THOU HAST WELL SAID, I HAVE NO HUSBAND.”

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She immediately replied to his request that she did not have a husband. Oh, she had a man that she lived with, did she not. They may have even had a civil marriage ceremony of the time but in God's eyes she had no husband in that her marriage was not in accordance with the plan of God. Another proof that God's marriage law applies to all people, for as long as time exists. Jesus commends her for giving an honest answer that reveals the truth about her marital status and spiritual condition.

v18. "FOR THOU HAST HAD FIVE HUSBANDS; AND HE WHOM THOU NOW HAST IS NOT THY HUSBAND: IN THAT SAIDST THOU TRULY."

Jesus shows her that he knows her past and present life; lays bare her current sinful situation. He demonstrates that he possesses knowledge above that which a normal human would possess.

v19. "THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, SIR, I PERCEIVE THAT THOU ART A PROPHET."

She quickly understood now that Jesus was more than just a man whom she encountered at a well. She now had the same understanding as others have when they observed his miracles:

John 6:14 "THEN THOSE MEN, WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE MIRACLE THAT JESUS DID, SAID, THIS IS OF A TRUTH THAT PROPHET THAT SHOULD COME INTO THE WORLD."

The woman's mind, now that she knew that he was a prophet, turns to the difference between the Samaritans and the Jews and the difference in their worship.

v20. "OUR FATHERS WORSHIPPED IN THIS MOUNTAIN; AND YE SAY, THAT IN JERUSALEM IS THE PLACE WHERE MEN OUGHT TO WORSHIP."

If you remember, when Jeroboam broke the ten tribes of Israel away from Judah and Benjamin he couldn't have his subjects returning to Jerusalem to worship. That wouldn't work. The kings of the southern kingdom would be able to win back his followers. The Samaritans claimed as their ancestors the people of the ten tribes even though as we discussed earlier in this chapter they were of mixed races. The Jews had consistently and correctly most of the ten tribes had forsaken God as they had abandoned the prescribed place and means of worship:

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Deuteronomy 12:5 “BUT UNTO THE PLACE WHICH THE **LORD** YOUR GOD SHALL CHOOSE OUT OF ALL YOUR TRIBES TO PUT HIS NAME THERE, EVEN UNTO HIS HABITATION SHALL YE SEEK, AND THITHER THOU SHALT COME.”

Deuteronomy 12:11 “THEN THERE SHALL BE A PLACE WHICH THE **LORD** YOUR GOD SHALL CHOOSE TO CAUSE HIS NAME TO DWELL THERE; THITHER SHALL YE BRING ALL THAT I COMMAND YOU; YOUR BURNT OFFERINGS, AND YOUR SACRIFICIES, YOUR TITHES, AND THE HEAVE OFFERING OF YOUR HAND, AND ALL YOUR CHOICE VOWS WHICH YE VOW UNTO THE **LORD**.”

After the building of the temple God spoke to Solomon:

I Kings 9:3 “AND THE **LORD** SAID UNTO HIM, I HAVE HEARD THY PRAYER AND THY SUPPLICATION, THAT THOU HAST MADE BEFORE ME: I HAVE HALLOWED THIS HOUSE, WHICH THOU HAST BUILT, TO PUT MY NAME THERE FOR EVER; AND MINE EYES AND MINE HEART SHALL BE THERE PERPETUALLY.”

So for the Israelites to seek to worship God anywhere else, except Jerusalem, was in fact to abandon God’s teaching and abandon God.

v21. “JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, WOMAN, BELIEVE ME, THE HOUR COMETH, WHEN YE SHALL NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR YET AT JERUSALEM, WORSHIP THE FATHER.”

The Jewish order and practice in worship and even that of the Samaritans followed when they tried to worship God was but a shadow, a material type of the spiritual worship to come with the coming of Christ and his church. Jesus is telling her that the worship of God, previously restricted to Jerusalem or in these mountains would no longer be confined to this area, but rather expanded to the known world. In our study of the Minor Prophets we saw this prophesied several times, one example is:

Malachi 1:11 “FOR FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN EVEN UNTO THE GOING DOWN OF THE SAME MY NAME **shall be** GREAT AMONG THE GENTILES; AND IN EVERY PLACE INCENSE **shall be** OFFERED UNTO MY NAME, AND A PURE OFFERING: FOR MY NAME **shall be** GREAT AMONG THE HEATHEN, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS.”

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The time is coming soon when the true spiritual temple of God would be each person who is a child of God. The privilege of becoming a child of God will be opened to all the nations of the earth. Paul wrote of it this way:

I Timothy 2:8 "I WILL THEREFORE THAT MEN PRAY EVERY WHERE, LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS, WITHOUT WRATH AND DOUBTING."

v22. "YE WORSHIP YE KNOW NOT WHAT: WE KNOW WHAT WE WORSHIP: FOR SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS."

Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that she didn't know what she worshipped. How can that be? They did not worship God in the manner he proscribed, at the place that He commanded; therefore they didn't know what they worshiped because they had abandoned God. Would not Jesus tell Billy or Franklin Graham, Joel Osteen, the Pope of Rome and thousands of others like them the same thing today? The schoolmaster explains it this way:

II Kings 17:29 "HOWBEIT EVERY NATION MADE GODS OF THEIR OWN, AND PUT *them* IN THE HOUSES OF THE HIGH PLACES WHICH THE SAMARITANS HAD MADE, EVERY NATION IN THEIR CITIES WHEREIN THEY DWELT."

In making this statement Jesus reminds her that since they did not worship in Jerusalem as God had commanded they had, in fact, abandoned God. The true God is the God of the Jews, true Israel, at least up until this time as we're told; again in prophecy:

Isaiah 2:3 "AND MANY PEOPLE SHALL GO AND SAY, COME YE, AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE **LORD**, TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB; AND HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, AND WE WILL WALK IN HIS PATHS: FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW, AND THE WORD OF THE **LORD** FROM JERUSALEM."

Jesus himself confirmed that salvation was to begin at Jerusalem and therefore come through the family of Abraham of whom the Jews were the representatives:

Luke 24:47 "AND THAT REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS SHOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME AMONG ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM."

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v23. “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.”

The hour is coming when all men who are “TRUE WORSHIPPERS” will worship God as He has commanded, with the right condition of heart. They will have no confidence in the teachings or ways of man as Paul confirms:

Philippians 3:3 “FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION, WHICH WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT, AND REJOICE IN CHRIST JESUS, AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH.”

Jesus and his apostles introduced a worship that was spiritual in nature. It was to come from the heart of men. It is not to be some canned ritual, though there are times we are accused of that; mostly by people that want to change God’s worship to suit themselves. Our worship must be a spiritual worship, lead by a heart that is truly humble and contrite and it must be regulated by the truth of God’s word. In His new covenant God said:

John 1:17 “FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES, *but* GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST.”

Speaking of spiritual Israel, the church, the Hebrew writer tells us:

Hebrews 8:10 “FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAITH THE LORD; I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MIND, AND WRITE THEM IN THEIR HEARTS: AND I WILL BE TO THEM A GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE TO ME A PEOPLE.”

This point is so important that the writer repeats it just a little later in the same book:

Hebrews 10:16 “THIS *is* THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAITH THE LORD, I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND IN THEIR MINDS WILL I WRITE THEM.”

This is to contrast between the worship under the law that came through Moses and the worship under the law of Christ.

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v24. “GOD *is* A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP *him* IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.”

Again, God is a Spirit being, He is not flesh and blood as men are; He does not think as men do; His ways are much higher than our ways. God is a spirit and the spirit of man must worship God, not simply with outward fleshly conformity to some ritual as under the Law of Moses or as is practiced by some of our religious neighbors. A spiritual being like God can be pleased with worship only when it comes from the heart and must be guided by truth; His truth.

When Paul came to Athens, he found people worshipping various idols. He taught them of the true God, and said,

Acts 17:26-27 “AND HATH MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL NATIONS OF MEN FOR TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND HATH DETERMINED THE TIMES BEFORE APPOINTED, AND THE BOUNDS OF THEIR HABITATION; THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THE LORD, IF HAPLY THEY MIGHT FEEL AFTER HIM, AND FIND HIM, THOUGH HE BE NOT FAR FROM EVERY ONE OF US:”

If we see the Lord, we must of necessity, do so where he is, not where we want him to be.

John 4:23 “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.”

But, just like everything else, God gives conditions for the worship to be accepted. He doesn't give us a requirement and then leave us ignorant regarding how He expects that requirement to be met. God always provides for our needs through His word; as Peter tells us:

II Peter 1:3 “ACCORDING AS HIS DIVINE POWER HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND VIRTURE.”

This most certainly includes worship.

God told Israel to offer incense, using the fire he specified. But Nadab and Abihu, sons of the High Priest Aaron, ignored God's instructions in what men would consider a very small matter:

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Leviticus 10:1-2 “AND NADAB AND ABIHU, THE SONS OF AARON, TOOK EITHER OF THEM HIS CENSER, AND PUT FIRE THEREIN, AND PUT INCENSE THEREON, AND OFFERED STRANGE FIRE BEFORE THE **LORD**, WHICH HE COMMANDED THEM NOT. AND THERE WENT OUT FIRE FROM THE **LORD**, AND DEVoured THEM, AND THEY DIED BEFORE THE **LORD**.”

No matter how devout, how sincere they might have been, they could not decide for God what he would accept in worship. Neither can we. When God says “Pray,” counting beads is not acceptable. When God says “sing,” playing instruments is not obedience. When the Lord says “bread” and “fruit of the vine” for His Supper, cookies and coke are not authorized. We must worship as God wants to be worshipped from the depth of our hearts.

v25. “THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, I KNOW THAT MESSIAS COMETH, WHICH IS CALLED CHRIST: WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL TELL US ALL THINGS.”

This woman, even though a Samaritan, knew the teachings concerning the Messiah that was to come. They looked forward to the coming of the Saviour and still maintained a form of worship to God even while barred from worshipping in Jerusalem as the children of Israel were commanded.

v26. “JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, I THAT SPEAK UNTO THEE AM *he*.”

Jesus makes what we would call a point blank statement that He is indeed the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, the Prophet that was promised. He does this at other times but the records are not quite as straightforward as this one:

John 9:37 “AND JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU HAST BOTH SEEN HIM, AND IT IS HE THAT TALKETH WITH THEE.”

Matthew 26:63-64 “BUT JESUS HELD HIS PEACE. AND THE HIGH PRIEST ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, I ADJURE THEE BY THE LIVING GOD, THAT THOU TELL US WHETHER THOU BE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, THOU HAST SAID: NEVERTHELESS I SAY UNTO YOU, HEREAFTER SHALL YE SEE THE SON OF MAN SITTING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, AND COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

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Mark's record is similar. While the Samaritan woman at the well was fleshly, sensual, dull of understanding spiritual truth, she was frank, open and candid, simple-hearted and ready to receive the truth, Jesus provided that truth in a spirit of open declaration that suited her needs. We judge people too many times using man's judgments rather than God's. Jesus did not seek the great, the noble, the people of intellectual accomplishment to reach the Samaritan people but rather a humble, perhaps unlearned (in terms of formal education) woman, who lived with a man not her husband. He brought the truth to her and through her to others.

v27. "AND UPON THIS CAME HIS DISCIPLES, AND MARVELLED THAT HE TALKED WITH THE WOMAN: YET NO MAN SAID, WHAT SEEKEST THOU? OR, WHY TALLEST THOU WITH HER?"

Remember that Jesus disciples had gone into the village to buy food and this conversation took place while they were gone. When they returned they were surprised to see Him talking to the Samaritan, they wondered (the KJV uses the word marveled). But they knew him well enough by now that they didn't ask

v28. "THE WOMAN THEN LEFT HER WATERPOT, AND WENT HER WAY INTO THE CITY, AND SAITH TO THE MEN,"

The return of the disciples interrupted their conversation and the woman left and hurried into the city to tell people what and who she has seen. In fact she leaves in such a hurry that she forgets her water-pot and the real reason she came to the well in the first place.

v29. "COME, SEE A MAN, WHICH TOLD ME ALL THINGS THAT EVER I DID: IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST?"

As this woman goes into the city she tells the men that she meets that she has found someone that was able to tell her all about her life. Then she asks a question "IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST?".

v30. "THEN THEY WENT OUT OF THE CITY, AND CAME UNTO HIM."

This aroused interest or enough curiosity to cause the people of the city to come out to see and talk with this Prophet. This was the kind of attention that Jesus apparently hoped to generate.

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Read **John 4:31-38** – Christ's Zeal for Teaching

v31. "IN THE MEAN WHILE HIS DISCIPLES PRAYED HIM, SAYING, MASTER, EAT."

While she was going and the people were coming from the city, the disciples brought their food out from the village and asked Jesus to eat.

v32. "BUT HE SAID UNTO THEM, I HAVE MEAT TO EAT THAT YE KNOW NOT OF."

Jesus had something to sustain him that was much more powerful than a mere meal. He had higher priorities than just for physical food and the focus of his life was on these priorities. This incident reminds us of his staying behind in Jerusalem when he was but a boy:

Luke 2:49 "AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, HOW IS IT THAT YE SOUGHT ME? WIST YE NOT THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?"

v33. "THEREFORE SAID THE DISCIPLES ONE TO ANOTHER, HATH ANY MAN BROUGHT HIM *ought* TO EAT?"

They had left him at the well to go into the city weary and no doubt hungry as we're told that it was the sixth hour or about twelve noon. They had gone and returned bringing food but he doesn't eat and tells them that he was filled another way. They wonder, why? They were carnal; thinking as men normally would think. But Jesus doesn't let them ponder very long.

v34. "JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, MY MEAT IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK."

Doing to the will of his Father supplied Jesus with the energy, strengthened him and refreshed him in the same fashion as physical food would do. Here we have two people becoming so involved in spiritual things that they forget the cares of the flesh; Jesus in teaching the Samaritan woman and losing his interest in physical food and the Samaritan woman to the extent that she forgets the purpose that brought her to the well and return to the city leaving her water pot.

John 6:38 "FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME."

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Jesus came to the will of his Father, it was his passion, his purpose, and his life. At the end of his earthly journey He could say to God the Father without reservation:

John 17:4 "I HAVE GLORIFIED THEE ON THE EARTH: I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK THOU GAVEST ME TO DO."

v35. "SAY NOT YE, THERE ARE YET FOUR MONTHS, AND *then* COMETH HARVEST? BEHOLD, I SAY UNTO YOU, LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST."

In another place Jesus says to his disciples:

"THEN SAITH HE UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, THE HARVEST TRULY *is* PLENTEOUS, BUT THE LABOURERS *are* FEW;" **Matthew 9:37**

Souls are dying in sin and his disciples are concerned about their bellies. Such is the common condition of man. I fear that sometimes, we, even we are guilty. It is but a short time to harvest.

v36. "AND HE THAT REAPETH RECEIVETH WAGES, AND GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL: THAT BOTH HE THAT SOWETH AND HE THAT REAPETH MAY REJOICE TOGETHER."

Those who take advantage of all their opportunities, who do not chaff and complain of being involved in small things, who are constant about the work of the Father shall receive their reward and their work will bear fruit unto eternal life:

Daniel 12:1-3 "AND AT THAT TIME SHALL MICHAEL STAND UP, THE GREAT PRINCE WHICH STANDETH FOR THE CHILDREN OF THY PEOPLE: AND THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, SUCH AS NEVER WAS SINCE THERE WAS A NATION *even* TO THAT SAME TIME: AND AT THAT TIME THY PEOPLE SHALL BE DELIVERED, EVERY ONE THAT SHALL BE FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK. AND MANY OF THEM THAT SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH SHALL AWAKE, SOME TO EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SOME TO SHAME *and* EVERLASTING COMTEMPT. AND THEY THAT BE WISE SHALL SHINE AS THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FIRMAMENT; AND THEY THAT TURN MANY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE STARS FOR EVER AND EVER."

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v37. “AND HEREIN IS THAT SAYING TRUE, ONE SOWETH, AND ANOTHER REAPETH.”

Just as one man may sow and another come along and reap the harvest; just as one man may teach God's word, never see a visible response and another may come along teaching and convert many; the same is true of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus is at this time reaping what was sown earlier by Moses and the prophets. Even this Samaritan, despised of the Jews and an outcast if she tried to worship God in the Jerusalem temple knew about the Messiah to come and knew to look for him who would bring all things to their knowledge. Jesus uses the opportunity to prepare a despised people. Consequently when Philip comes to them (Acts Chapter 8) they are ready to receive the gospel of Christ.

v38. “I SENT YOU TO REAP THAT WHEREON YE BESTOWED NO LABOUR: OTHER MEN LABOURED, AND YE ARE ENTERED INTO THEIR LABOURS.”

Jesus sent his disciples to reap where Moses and the prophets had sown. This is the order of things in God's world, both natural and spiritual. In the great gospel meetings we used to have were groups of people were baptized the preacher that held the meeting frequently got credit for the harvest but the reason there was such a harvest was many times due to the sowing that the people of that congregation had been doing; maybe even for years. The controversy (back at the beginning of the chapter) that had sent Jesus into Samaria was due to Jesus disciples reaping where the disciples of John had sown, with perhaps the final touch of conviction coming from the teaching of Jesus.

Read **John 4:39-42** – The Samaritans Believed

v39. “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.”

Now do we see the kind of person that Jesus is using to reach the people of this Samaritan city? Just a common person, even living a life of adultery; a sin so common among people of that day (and us today, I fear) that it probably didn't even raise eye-brows. The earnest, candid telling of what had passed in conversation between her and Jesus moved many to believe on Christ through her.

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v40. “SO WHEN THE SAMARITANS WERE COME UNTO HIM, THEY BESOUGHT HIM THAT HE WOULD TARRY WITH THEM: AND HE ABODE THERE TWO DAYS.”

These people had not only found a Jew that did not ostracize them, did not travel miles out of His way so as to not have to cross their land; but friendly, willing to not only accept but request as small a favor as a drink of water. They asked him to stay. And to the surprise of the Samaritans and perhaps the consternation of his disciples, stay he did, staying for two days teaching them and beginning the work of breaking down the wall between Jew and the remnant of Israel.

v41. “AND MANY MORE BELIEVED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN WORD.”

Many believed because of the testimony of the woman but many more, we're told, believed because of the teaching of Jesus himself. They heard for themselves his teaching of the water of life and recognized him as a divine teacher.

v42. “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.”

In His prayer concerning his disciples in:

John 17:8 “FOR I HAVE GIVEN UNTO THEM THE WORDS WHICH THOU GAVEST ME; AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED *them*, AND HAVE KNOWN SURELY THAT I CAME OUT FROM THEE, AND THEY HAVE BELIEVED THAT THOU DIDST SEND ME.”

Only one point was needed to fix the faith in Christ in their minds. That was that God was with him and he talked and acted with divine authority. Their readiness to believe was like Nathanael, the Israelite without guile, and this woman on the first clear evidence of superhuman knowledge. Those who readily received her testimony reflect the evidence of an artless and candid heart and soul and must assuredly be pleasing to God. Their belief was based upon first hand experience just as John testified in:

I John 4:14 “AND WE HAVE SEEN AND DO TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER SENT THE SON *to be* THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.”

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Read **John 4:43-54** – Galilee and Healing the Nobleman’s Son

v.43. “NOW AFTER TWO DAYS HE DEPARTED THENCE, AND WENT INTO GALILEE.”

Jesus had left Judea to journey to Galilee. When opportunity arises he spends two days in Samaria teaching and preaching, preparing these people for their later conversion. Then he continues his journey.

v44. “FOR JESUS HIMSELF TESTIFIED, THAT A PROPHET HATH NO HONOR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.”

When Jesus taught in the Nazareth synagogue the reaction was:

Matthew 13:57 “AND THEY WERE OFFENDED IN HIM. BUT JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, A PROPHET IS NOT WITHOUT HONOR SAVE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, AND IN HIS OWN HOUSE.” See also **Mark 6:4, Luke 4:24**

v45. “THEN WHEN HE WAS COME UNTO GALILEE, THE GALILAEANS RECEIVED HIM, HAVING SEEN ALL THE THINGS THAT HE DID AT JERUSALEM AT THE FEAST FOR THEY ALSO WENT UNTO THE FEAST.”

As we studied in chapter two; when God gave his law to Moses he included:

Deuteronomy 16:16 “THREE TIMES IN A YEAR SHALL ALL THY MALES APPEAR BEFORE THE **LORD** THY GOD IN THE PLACE WHICH HE SHALL CHOOSE; IN THE FEAST OF THE UNLEAVENED BREAD, AND IN THE FEAST OF WEEKS, AND IN THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES: AND THEY SHALL NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE **LORD** EMPTY.”

Jesus had performed miracles at the feast in Jerusalem. Many of the Galileans had been in Judea, saw the miracles he performed there and so were ready to receive his teaching upon his return to Galilee.

v46. “SO JESUS CAME AGAIN INTO CANA OF GALILEE, WHERE HE MADE THE WATER WINE. AND THERE WAS A CERTAIN NOBLEMAN, WHOSE SON WAS SICK AT CAPERNAUM.”

As you should remember, Cana is not far from Nazareth and was the location of Jesus first miracle.

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John 2:11 “THIS BEGINNING OF MIRACLES DID JESUS IN CANA OF GALILEE, AND MANIFESTED FORTH HIS GLORY; AND HIS DISCIPLES BELIEVED ON HIM.”

With the route that he had probably taken; Cana is on the road from Sychar to Capernaum. This nobleman was apparently part of the ruling class of this time in Jewish history. We only know what the scripture tells us indicating that he was a man of some fairly high station in life.

v47. “WHEN HE HEARD THAT JESUS WAS COME OUT OF JUDAEA INTO GALILEE, HE WENT UNTO HIM, AND BESOUGHT HIM THAT HE WOULD COME DOWN, AND HEAL HIS SON: FOR HE WAS AT THE POINT OF DEATH.”

This nobleman heard that Jesus had come out of Judea. In some way he knew about Jesus and his works. He seeks him out because Jesus has power that he recognizes and needs to help him in his time of trouble.

v48. “THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIM, EXCEPT YE SEE SIGNS AND WONDERS, YE WILL NOT BELIEVE.”

Paul writes in:

I Corinthians 1:22 “FOR THE JEWS REQUIRE A SIGN, AND THE GREEKS SEEK AFTER WISDOM.”

The Jews looked for signs and wonders before they would believe; Jesus seems to point out this man's faith, but the wording would almost have us believe he did so in a negative way. He challenges the nobleman's faith and he responds.

v49. “THE NOBLEMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, SIR COME DOWN ERE MY CHILD DIE.”

Jesus is touched by the sincerity of this man's plea, the concern he shows for his son. The strength of his faith is obvious by his response in the face of Jesus comment in the verse before.

v50. “JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, GO THY WAY, THY SON LIVETH. AND THE MAN BELIEVED THE WORD THAT JESUS HAD SPOKEN UNTO HIM, AND HE WENT HIS WAY.”

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Jesus recognized this earnest and humble faith in the nobleman and accomplished more than he asked. He didn't go down to his house but healed his son. The man believed, even without seeing any result he accepted what Jesus told him at face value and went on his way.

v51. "AND AS HE WAS NOW GOING DOWN, HIS SERVANTS MET HIM, AND TOLD *him*, SAYING, THY SON LIVETH."

The change in the boy's condition was so obvious and the nobleman's concern so great that as soon as he improved; his servants were sent, or came to him to tell him about this strange turn of events that found his son much better and on the mend.

v52. "THEN INQUIRED HE OF THEM THE HOUR WHEN HE BEGAN TO AMEND. AND THEY SAID UNTO HIM YESTERDAY AT THE SEVENTH HOUR THE FEVER LEFT HIM."

Apparently this nobleman's faith was not only manifested by his insistence that Jesus could and should heal his son but also by the distance that he traveled. When he questions his servants as to the time that the boy started to improve they tell him yesterday at the seventh hour. This would be about 1:00 p.m. the day before.

v53. "SO THE FATHER KNEW THAT *it was* AT THE SAME HOUR, IN THE WHICH JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THY SON LIVETH: AND HIMSELF BELIEVED, AND HIS WHOLE HOUSE."

When his servants told him the exact hour that the boy started to improve it registers in this man's mind that it was the same exact time that he had spoken with Jesus the day before. Based upon this strong evidence then; he believed Jesus teaching and his whole household with him.

v54. "THIS *is* AGAIN THE SECOND MIRACLE *that* JESUS DID, WHEN HE WAS COME OUT OF JUDAEA UNTO GALILEE."

We have the simple statement of fact that this is the second miracle that Jesus did on His journey from Judea to Galilee. We are not told about the first, only that it occurred.