

Discourse with Woman of Samaria About the Water of Life

John 4:4-26

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Text:

John 4:4-26,

4. And He had to pass through Samaria.

5. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph;

6. and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

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

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

9. Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans).

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. She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?"

12. You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

13. Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again;

14. but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

15. The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

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

17. The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband';

18. for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”

19. The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

21. Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

22. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be his worshipers.

24. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

25. The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

26. Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

Commentary:

John 4:4, And He had to pass through Samaira.

I. Samaria was between Judea on the south and Galilee on the north.

A. Jesus went through Samaria, not around it as was the case with prejudiced Jews.

B. Samaria, in the time of Christ, was a small province about 20 miles long north to south and about 30 miles wide east to west. The eastern boundary was the Jordan River.

C. Samaria's capital was Samaria City located about 6 miles northwest of the site at which the events of this lesson took place.

John 4:5, So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph;

I. Jesus arrived at Sychar, a town near property Jacob had purchased from the son of Hamor for a hundred pieces of money.

A. Sychar was the location of the bloody incident involving Jacob's daughter Dinah.

B. When the Israelites returned from Egyptian Captivity, Joseph's bones were buried there.

C. Jacob dug this famous well which was bequeathed to the sons of Joseph.

John 4:6, and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

I. Jesus arrived at Jacob's well at about noon. He was weary from his journey.

Note: Noon (the Jewish sixth hour) was a very unusual time to be drawing water. Perhaps this woman was such an outcast that she dared not come at the more normal six p.m. (Jewish twelfth hour).

A. Jacob's well is located in clear view of Mt. Gerizim which rises high above it to the west.

B. The well was about 75 feet deep. Water is about 15 feet deep in the well.

C. The fact that Jesus was weary from his journey speaks to the humanity of Jesus.

John 4:7, There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”

I. It was customary for women to go to the well in groups to draw water in the evening, about 6:00 p.m. (the Jewish twelfth hour).

A. Why did this woman come to draw water at noon in the heat of the day?

B. Jesus was thirsty. He asked this Samaritan **woman** for a favor...a drink. This quenched Jesus' thirst and opened the door to a discussion of this woman's spiritual needs.

C. Jesus did not hesitate to cross the male-female and Jew-Samaritan barriers.

II. Following the conquest of Samaria by Shalmaneser (722 B.C.) the local inhabitants were deported and the cities left desolate. Wild beasts roamed the streets.

A. Not wishing the land to be left idle, the King of Assyria repopulated the area with the heathen who brought their idolatrous religions with them.

B. The people were troubled by the wild beasts. The king of Assyria thought this may have been because the “god of the land” had been neglected.

C. Remaining natives and the immigrants inter-married.

- D. The mingling of the people produced a compromised race and religion: the Samaritans.
- E. When the Jews rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem, the help in the project offered by the Samaritans was refused.
- F. Animosity and hatred grew between the Jews and the Samaritans.
- G. The Jews had no social nor religious interaction with the Samaritans, although they did trade with them.
- H. Jesus did not share these prejudices.

John 4:8, For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

- I. While Jesus was at Jacob's well, the disciples went into the city (Sychar) to buy food.
- II. Why did it take 12 men to go grocery shopping?

John 4:9, Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans).

- I. Jesus breeched social custom by:
 - A. speaking to a Samaritan.
 - B. speaking in public to a woman who had not been properly introduced and making of her a request for water.
- II. The Samaritan woman was surprised by this and responded by asking Jesus why he had violated custom and tradition.

III. Jesus saw in the person of this woman a priceless eternal soul who was soon to be a most effective evangelist.

John 4:10, 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.”

I. Jesus said that if this woman had known who he was that she would not have let the male-female, Jew-Samaritan differences keep her from asking him for living water.

II. Jesus saw in this Samaritan woman someone who would appreciate the spiritual values he came to proclaim.

III. “Living water” refers to the water of life, the Holy Spirit, the living word of God by which we are saved.

A. Just as the body requires water to survive, so the soul must have living water to be saved, to live with God eternally.

B. Jesus here refers to Himself as “The gift of God” for the salvation of the world.

John 4:11, She said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?”

I. The woman did not immediately understand what Jesus meant.

A. She confused literal water with spiritual water.

B. She did not understand how Jesus would be able to get water from Jacob’s well since he had nothing with which to draw water from the deep well.

II. The woman wanted to know where he would get living water since he obviously couldn't get it from Jacob's well.

John 4:12, You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

I. The woman evidently now began to realize she was in the presence of a most unusual personage...

A. or she was very sarcastic.

B. She asked, "Are you greater than Jacob, who gave us this well?"

John 4:13, 14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

I. Whoever drank of the water from Jacob's well would thirst again.

II. Whoever drank of the water Jesus gave would never thirst again.

III. The living water (a spiritual power) would completely satisfy, would replenish itself, and produce eternal life.

IV. The woman did not fully understand Jesus, but thought that he spoke of a certain kind of literal water.

John 4:15, The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

I. The woman respectfully asked Jesus for this water that would permanently quench her thirst and eliminate the need for her to make the long daily trip to the well to draw water.

II. We should not wait until we understand everything before asking blessings from the Lord. If we do that, we would never be able to ask Him for anything.

John 4:16, He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.”

I. Jesus abruptly appeared to change the subject because:

A. spiritual blessings are to be shared with family and friends.

B. spiritual blessings require that our lives be brought into compliance with God’s will.

C. he wanted the woman to recognize that he was God’s Son by revealing his perfect knowledge of her life.

John 4:17, The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’;

I. The woman said that she had no husband (at that time).

II. Jesus said the woman had answered well, discretely, accurately.

III. Jesus knew everything about this woman’s life. He was not asking for information.

John 4:18, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”

I. The fact that this stranger at the well knew about her five previous husbands and her present “live in” situation convinced the woman that he was indeed a prophet of God.

II. What had caused the disillusionment of these five marriages? ...death?...incompatibility? Jesus did not reveal this to us.

III. Jesus did reveal the fact that she was at that time living with (co-habiting) with a man outside of marriage.

IV. Regardless of these matters, here was a woman of whom Jesus asked water with which to quench his thirst and who obviously was spiritually minded and one who was used of God to bring many to faith in his Son.

V. Jesus stated facts about this woman’s life. There is not a single word of condemnation here spoken by the Lord of this woman’s lifestyle! That does not mean, however, that he approved of her lifestyle.

John 4:19, The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

I. The woman came to the remarkable conclusion, based on her interaction with Jesus, that he was a prophet!

II. Jesus had risen in the Samaritan woman’s opinion from a Jew who hated her to a prophet of God.

III. Her opinion of Jesus would continue to increase/rise.

IV. Since she now saw Jesus as a prophet, she asked him a basic religious question which concerned both Jews and Samaritans.

John 4:20, Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

- I. This question had deeply troubled the Samaritan woman.
- II. Samaritans worshiped on Mt. Gerizim. Jews worshiped in Jerusalem.
- III. Who was right about the question, “Where can worship acceptable to God be offered?”
- IV. What are the five most troubling questions you would like to ask Jesus?

John 4:21, Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

- I. Jesus stated that the time was imminent when the place of worship would be immaterial!
- II. That time began on Pentecost in Act 2, the birthday of the church!

John 4:22, You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

- I. The Samaritan worship was faulty in several respects.
 - A. Samaritan worship was mixture of paganism and a partial following of the Pentateuch.
 - B. This caused doubt on the part of this woman and major opposition from the Jews.
- II. Jesus said salvation sprang from the Jews. As originally given their worship was of God.
 - A. However, the Jewish worship in the time of Jesus had also become corrupted.

B. Pharisaical attitudes were certainly not godly.

John 4:23, But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be his worshipers.

I. God was looking then and is looking now for people who seek to worship him in:

A. spirit; that is, with the right attitude.

B. truth; that is, in keeping with Biblical instruction.

II. The question of where to worship is now a moot question. The **how** to worship remains crucial.

John 4:24, God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

I. God is a spirit, eternal, immortal, invisible, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.

II. Isaiah 6:1-8, In the year of King Uzziah’s death **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.** Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, **“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips;** For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He

touched my mouth with it and said, **“Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I, Send me!”**

- A. We are to be aware of God.
- B. We are to be conscious of our sins and unworthiness.
- C. We are to have a sense of forgiveness/cleansing.
- D. We are to be ready to serve.

John 4:25, The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

- I. The Samaritan woman, listening to the teachings of Jesus, declared that she knew the Messiah/Christ would come and that he would set all religious things right.
- II. The marital difficulties experienced by this woman had not obscured her knowledge of certain spiritual truths!

John 4:26, Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

I. Jesus here unequivocally stated/asserted that he was the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed of God.

A. “I that speak unto thee am he.” King James Version and American Standard Version.

B. “I, the one speaking to you, am he (Messiah).” New International Version.

C. “I who speak to you am he.” Revised Standard Version.

D. “I am Christ, speaking to you now,” said Jesus. Phillips Modern English Version.

E. “I am he, I who am speaking to you now.” New English Bible.

F. Literally: “**I am** (is) the one speaking to you.” (“I am” was a well known designation of God. For clarity in English, the verb “is” must be supplied.”

II. Jesus left no doubt! Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God!

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Questions

1. On his journey from Judea to Galilee Jesus came to a city of _____ called _____. _____'s _____ was there.
2. Jesus, being _____ from his journey, was sitting by the well at about _____.
3. There came a _____ of _____ to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a _____."
4. Jesus' disciples had gone away into the _____ to buy _____.
5. The _____ said to Jesus, "How is it that You, being a _____, ask me for a _____ since I am a _____?"
6. _____ have no dealings with _____.
7. Jesus changed the subject from literal _____ to _____.
8. Jesus said, "Everyone who _____ of this _____ will _____ again. Whoever drinks of the _____ I give him shall never _____ but will become in him a _____ of _____ spring up to _____."
9. The woman asked, "Give me that _____, so I will not be _____ nor come all the way here to draw."

10. Jesus said, "Go, call your _____ and come here."
The woman said she had no _____.

11. Jesus revealed his knowledge of the fact that she had had _____
_____ and was at that time living with a man who was not
her _____.

12. If we met a woman like this Samaritan, in what ways would our
attitude be like or unlike Jesus' attitude? _____

13. The Samaritan woman changed the subject to, "Where should we
worship, in this _____ or in _____?"

14. Jesus replied that the time was fast approaching when the place of
worship wouldn't matter, but worship had to be in _____
and in _____."

15. The Samaritan woman said, "I know that _____ is
coming." Jesus responded, "_____ who speak to you am _____.

16. Jacob's well is located in clear view of _____,
the _____ in which Samaritans worshiped.

17. Jesus did not hesitate to cross the _____-_____,
_____-_____ barriers.

18. What was the origin of the Samaritans? _____

19. Jesus saw in the Samaritan woman a _____
_____ who would soon become a
most effective _____.

20. Jesus unequivocally asserted that he was the _____,
the _____, the _____ of _____.