

2/16/25

God Is Not Willing That Any Should Perish!

Jn. 4:1-42

John Newton the slave trader, who was converted to Jesus after having lived a life of the lowest debauchery and who considered himself to be the chief of sinners like Paul declared, “When I get to heaven I shall see three wonders there. The first wonder will be, to see many people there whom I did not expect to see-- the second wonder will be, to miss many people whom I did expect to see; and the third and greatest wonder of all, will be to find myself there.” #2095

* Such could be the proclamation of the Samaritan woman before us in our text, found only in John.

God is so loving and merciful to each person regardless of what has happened in their lives that it should cause all of us to be humbled and in admiration of His grace!

The story of the Samaritan woman provides for us how Jesus saved her. Jn. 4:1-42

- I. By reaching out at the opportune times. vs. 1-6
- II. By seeking out confession of sin. vs. 7-18
- III. By revealing Himself to her as Messiah. vs. 19-26
- IV. By using her as His instrument. vs. 27-42

I. Jesus saved the Samaritan woman by reaching out at the opportune time. vs. 1-6

A. The occasion was one of tension. vs. 1-3

- 1. Jesus became the focus of the Pharisees contempt, “Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples).” vs. 1-2

* This is pointing back to chapter three. Jn. 3:22-24

- 2. Jesus departed to Galilee, “He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.” vs. 3
 - a. He had already been there before. Jn. 1:43
 - b. He had been at Cana where he turned the water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Jn. 2:1-12

B. The occasion brought Jesus to Samaria. vs. 4-6

- 1. Jesus was being compeled to go to Samaria, “But He needed to go through Samaria.” vs. 4
 - a. The phrase “needed to go”, “di” means an absolute necessity with the idea of obligation.
 - b. The same word Jesus used for Nicodemus, “You must be born again”. Jn. 3:7

- c. The Lord Jesus knew the spiritual condition of the Samariatan woman and this was her appointed time.
- 2. Jesus would travel through Samaria to Galilee, which no Jew would do. vs. 4
 - a. The Jews would take either the way through Perea on the east side of the Jordan, “The King’s highway” and then cross over to Galilee or take the sea route, “The Via Mares”, even though Samaria was the shortest route.
 - b. The Samaritans were considered a mixed race by the Jews and the hatred was great between them.
 - c. Through the Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. , the people were cross-populated with other Gentile nations and inter-married defiling their heritage. 2King. 17:24-44
 - d. The Samaritans were refused to be part of the rebuilding of the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem, so they became adversaries to Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra 4:1-3; Neh. 6:1-4
 - e. The spiritual corruption of syncretism by the Samaritans is recorded declaring they set up their own priests feared the Lord, yet served their own gods. 2kings 17:33
- 3. Jesus came to city where the woman lived, “So He came to a city of Samaria which is

- called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.” vs. 5
 - a. Askar is the modern day city that stands where Sychar did and Nabulus not far where Shechem did.
 - b. Jacob had given a plot of ground from Shechem and his son Joseph was buried there. Gen. 33:19; 48:22; Josh. 24:32
 - c. In the late 70’s and the 80’s we visited Samaria in our tour to Israel, but the Samaritans began to be violent and throw rocks towards to buses, so we never went back.
 - d. There are only about 200 or less Samaritan, due to their inbreeding with family members causing much embecility among them.
- 4. Jesus went to the specific location of Jacob’s well for the place meeting, “Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.” vs. 6
 - a. Jesus was weary from the journey, evidence of His humanity.
 - b. The word for well “pege” means a well fed by a running spring and is used twice. vs. 6, 14
 - c. Jesus arrived at the 6th hour to the well, Hebrew time would make it twelve noon.

Illustration

I was in a Kung-Fu studio in East L. A. on Beverly Blvd when I got saved, my brother and I were doing a stick routine and one of the sticks broke puncturing my right eye and deflated in my hand, I called on Jesus and He saved me, He knew the opportune time.

Application

1. Jesus has saved people on their dying beds, like the thief on the cross. Lk. 23:42-43

* “Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

2. Jesus has saved people in the worst of situations as lost sinners. like many of us. Rom. 3:23

* “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. Jesus has saved people that go to church, but are not saved, like John Westly by hearing the introduction to Romans.

4. Jesus has saved people when they least expected it to happen, like Paul the apostle, yet never against their will. Acts 9

* As he was on his way to arrest and imprison saints!

God is always reaching out to sinners at every opportune time!

II. Jesus saved the Samaritan woman by seeking out confession of sin. vs. 7-18

A. Jesus is the initiator of the conversation with the woman. vs. 7-9

1. Jesus asked her if she would give Him some water, “A woman of Samaria came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” vs. 7

2. Jesus was all alone, “For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.” vs. 8

3. The woman responded in two ways. vs. 9

a. She was surprised at the request of Jesus being a Jew, probably by His speech, “Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” vs. 9a-e

b. She was sarcastic to Him declaring the prejudice of Jews against the Samaritans, “For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” vs. 9f

B. Jesus attempted to show the woman her spiritual need. vs. 10-12

1. The understanding of the woman was blindness to spiritual things. vs. 10

a. She did not know what the gift of God was, namely salvation, “Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God.” vs. 10a-b

b. She did not know who He was, namely Messiah, “and who it is that says to you,

‘Give Me drink,’ you would of asked Him”. vs. 10c-e

- c. She did not ask Him for the living water she needed, “and He would have given you living water.” vs. 10f
2. The understanding of the woman was based on human reasoning.
 - a. She is respectful , “The woman said to Him, “Sir”. vs. 11a-b
 - b. She can not see from where He will get this living water, “You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?” vs. 11c-e
* The well being about 100 feet deep.
 - c. She desired to know if He is greater than the Patriarch Jacob?, “Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?” vs. 12
 - 1) The Samaritans claimed their heritage through Joseph, Ephraim and Manassah.
 - 2) The word for well that she uses is different from the one in verse six and fourteen, it is “phrear”, which means a pit, cistern or well implying the shaft.

C. Jesus attempted to show the woman the emptiness of the earthly things. vs. 13-15

1. Jesus declared the temporal satisfaction of the earthly water, “Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.” vs. 13
 2. Jesus declared in contrast the permanent satisfaction of the water He gives, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.” vs. 14a
 3. Jesus declared the inner resource that would bubble up into eternal life from within the person who receives this living water, “But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” vs. 14b
 4. She could only see the physical and immediate benefit of not having to come to draw water any longer, “The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” vs. 15
- D. Jesus reveal to the woman her sin. vs. 16-18
1. Jesus revealed her present sin to move her towards repentance by confessing her sin, “Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” vs. 16
 2. She confessed her sin by acknowledging she has no husband, “The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” vs. 17a-b
 3. Jesus acknowledged her confession, “Jesus said to her, “You have well said, I have no husband.” vs. 17c-e

4. Jesus revealed her life of sin. vs. 18
 - a. Jesus told her how many times she has been married, “for you have had five husbands.” vs. 18a
 - b. Jesus told her she was presently living with a man, “and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” vs. 18b-c
 - * Jesus knew what was in her heart and every person, even their thoughts before they got there. Jn. 2:25; Ps. 139:1-4
 - 1) The liberal school of Hillel permitted divorce for any cause based on the passage in Deuteronomy. Deut. 24:1-4
 - 2) The woman had sunk to a lower level than divorce by living with a man, perhaps without being divorce from her last husband.

Illustration

The thief on the cross acknowledged his guilt and told the other thief they deserved to die, then he turned to Jesus and said, “Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom”.

Application

1. Jesus desires to show each person the spiritual dark state, blindness and death in trespasses and sins by the proclamation of the gospel
 - * “Faith come by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17

2. Jesus desires to show us the emptiness of temporal satisfaction of what this world can offer, be it sex, drugs, alcohol, pleasure or wealth.
 - * “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Eph. 4:17-19
3. Jesus desires to reveal our sin that we might confess it, be forgiven and forsaken it.
 - * “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’” Ezk. 33:11

God is always seeking sinners to confess their sins!

III. Jesus saved the Samaritan woman by revealing Himself as Messiah. vs. 19-26

- A. Jesus is acknowledged as a prophet by her. vs. 19
 - * “The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”
 - 1. Jesus first was just a Jew. vs. 9

2. Jesus was addressed with respect, “Sir”. vs. 11b, 15b
3. Jesus is now one who God speaks to and through, “the Prophet”.

B. Jesus removed her religious confidence. vs. 20-24

1. She puts Jesus to the test as God’s prophet, who is right in the controversy of the place of worship, the Samaritans or the Jews?, “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” vs. 20
 - a. The rival temple had been erected on Mount Gerizim by permission of Alexander the Great and dedicated to Zeus through their Hellenization in 409 B.C. and destroyed in 129 B.C by John Hyrcanus the Macabean ruler.
 - b. They declared that Abraham had offered Isaac on Gerizim and the Abraham also met Melkizedek there.
 - c. They had corrupted the place of Mount Gerizem in the Scriptures and excepted only the Pentateuch. Deut. 27
2. Jesus declared an appointed time when these two earthly localities would cease to be the center of worship. vs. 21
 - a. “Jesus said to her, “Woman believe Me”, emphasizing the truth a authority of what He is about to say. vs. 21a-b

- b. Jesus said to her, “the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father”, emphasizing the near future.

C. Jesus declared her ignorance as to her worship of God. vs. 22

1. Jesus confronted her with her false religion, “You worship what you do not know”. vs. 22a
2. Jesus told her, “we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews”. vs. 22b-c
* Jesus included Himself as knowing the true worship by the pronoun “we”, a Jew.

D. Jesus declared to the woman her invitation to worship God. vs. 23-24

1. Jesus revealed that the time has come that all of mankind can worship God regardless of race. vs. 23
 - a. It is future and already present, “but the hour Is coming and now is”. vs. 23a-b
 - b. It is open to sincere worshipers, “When true worshipers will worship”. vs. 23c
 - c. It is a worship of the, “Father in spirit and truth.” vs. 23c
 - d. It is God the Father who is seeking out ture worshippers, “for God seek such to worship Him”. vs. 23d
2. Jesus revealed the nature of God and the nature of worship. vs. 24

- a. God is not a physical being, “God is Spirit.” vs. 24a
- b. God *must* be worshipped in the proper and Scriptural way, “and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” vs. 24b
 - * This is the second “must” in the chapter, no exceptions!
 - 1) In spirit means the spirit of man, the inner man that is made alive by the Holy Spirit of God at salvation.
 - 2) In truth “aletheia”, means what is true in things pertaining to God regarding worship, namely in His word.
 - * Of the 25 times it appears in John the majority refer to God’s word or gospel!

E. Jesus revealed Himself to her as Messiah. vs. 25-26

- 1. She confesses her belief in the coming of the Messiah, “The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). vs. 25a-d
 - * John interprets Messiah as the Christos, the anointed in parenthesis!
- 2. She concurred that when Messiah comes He will tell the Samaritan’s all things, politely she was saying I don’t know if I believe You! “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” vs. 25e-f

- 3. Jesus declared to her that He was the Messiah, “Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you an He.” vs. 26
 - a. Only One person is referred to as “ego eimi”, the One who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. Ex. 3:14
 - * Jesus uses the phrase constantly for Himself in John. Jn. 8:58
 - b. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us His Messiahship!
 - c. Only the individual can choose to believe or reject the truth.

Illustration

When the centurion and those guarding Jesus the bodies heard the earthquake and the graves open and the bodies of the saint arise, they feared greatly and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” Matt. 27:31-54

Application

- 1. Do you get religious when you are confronted with the gospel and salvation to avoid the issue? 1Cor. 2:14
 - * “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- 2. Do you see your own ignorance about spiritual things when the Scriptures are shared with you?” Acts 8:35
 - * “So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or

of some other man?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him
3. “Do you acknowledge Jesus only as a good teacher or even a prophet, that is not good enough. Matt. 16:16

* Peter said to Jesus, “You are the Son of the living God”.

4. Do you accept the invitation to except Jesus as Messiah as it is being offered to you? Heb. 4:7

* “Again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”

God is always desiring sinners to except Jesus as Messiah!

IV. Jesus saved the Samaritan woman to use her as His instrument. vs. 27-42

A. The woman went to tells others about Jesus. vs. 27-30

- 1.** The disciples returned and marveled that Jesus was talking to a woman, “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?” vs. 27
- 2.** The woman went into the city to tell others. vs. 28-30

a. She spoke directly to the men who were well aquatinted with her reputation, “The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men.” vs. 28

b. She told them of Jesus, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” vs. 29
 * She caught their attention by saying, “Could this be the Messiah?”, that each man could decide for themself.

c. The men went to see Jesus, “Then they went out of the city and came to Him.” vs. 30

B. The disciples were taught about the work of the Father. vs. 31-38

1. The work is concerned with people not self. vs. 31-34

- a.** The disciples were concerned with the physical an temperal things as the Samaritan woman was, “In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” vs. 31
- b.** Jesus declared that He had food they knew nothing about, “But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” vs. 32
- c.** The disciples tried to figure out if someone had brought Him some food?, “Therefore the disciples said to one

another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” vs. 33

- d. Jesus plainly declares to them His food was to do the will of His Father, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. vs. 34
2. The work is a harvest of people. vs. 35-38
 - a. Don't be procrastinators, the harvest is ready, “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!” vs. 35
 - 1) Without any doubt at this time the crowds were coming as Jesus pointed to them, the harvest!
 - 2) It was December and in four months April was the beginning of harvest!
 - b. The harvest involves peoples eternal life which should cause great joy in the sower and reaper, “And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.. vs. 36
 - c. The disciples are sent out to the harvest. vs. 37-38
 - 1) Some sow and others reap, “For in this the saying is true: One sows and another reaps.” vs. 37
 - 2) They were going to reap the labors of other men, “I sent you to reap that for

which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.” vs. 38

- C. The Samaritans received salvation. vs. 39-42
 1. Many believed due to the word of the woman, “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.” vs. 39
 2. They urged Jesus to stay, “So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. vs. 40
 3. Many more believed having heard the words of Jesus, “And many more believed because of His own word”. vs. 41
 4. The Samaritans confessed their own conviction about Jesus, “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.” vs. 42
 - 1) The phrase “the Savior of the world” is found only one other time. 1Jn. 4:14
 - 2) That Jesus is Savior is found throughout the New Testament, “He is the Savior of all men.” 1Tim. 4:10

Illustration

Paul the apostle who was the fierce enemy of the church became an instrument to share Christ immediately, as the Samaritan woman.

Application

1. The first ones we are to go share salvation is our family and familiar friends for they knew how we use to live after the world.

* “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.” Jn. 1:40-42a

2. The Christian must never forget the harvest is ready and sometimes we will sow and never see the reaping and at other times we will reap the sowing of others.

* “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.” 1Cor. 3:5-8

3. The joy of seeing others come to Christ is the greatest thing you can experience.

* “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who win souls is wise.” Prov. 11:30a

God is always using those He saves as His instruments to reach and save others!

Conclusion

In 1929, J.C. Penney’s business was highly unstable. And so he began to worry and became sleepless. He worried to the extreme and contracted the shingles that is the severely painful. Into the hospital, Penney was given medicine to tranquilize him, but it was no help. He still worried about his business.

One night, he felt that he would die before morning, and so he started writing farewells to his wife, son, and friends. But by the next morning, as he was lying on bed, he heard singing from the hospital chapel next door: “No matter what may be the test. God will take care of you.”

Suddenly he leaned up, thinking: “It is real God loves and cares for me.” In no time, he had jumped out of his bed and entered the chapel. And then a miracle took place in his soul, as if he were a little bird suddenly freed to fly out of the dungeon into the sunlight, from hell to paradise. #7569

* His financial fortunes began to be restored in the mid-1930s. As that happened, he renewed his support of various charities, putting millions of dollars into the Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida, Christian Herald magazine, and more than 100 other organizations ministering in the United States and around the world.

The story of J.C. Penney is no different than the Samaritan woman, Jesus saved them both in the same way.

- I.** God is always reaching out to sinners at every opportune time!
- II.** God is always seeking sinners to confess their sins by the conviction of the Holy Spirit!
- III** God is always desiring sinners to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the Messiah!
- IV.** God is always using those He saves as His instrument to reach and save others!