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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 that we have before us in our text.

God is so loving and merciful to each person regardless 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 the Samaritan woman.

- 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. vs. 19-26
- IV. By using man as His instrument. vs. 27-42

I. By reaching out at the opportune times. vs. 1-6

- A. The occasion was one of tension. vs. 1-3
 1. Jesus became the focus of the Pharisees contempt. vs. 1-2
 2. Jesus departed to Galilee. vs. 3
 - a. He had already been there before. 1:43
 - b. He had been at Cana where he turned the water into wine. 2:1-12
- B. The occasion brought Jesus to Samaria. vs. 4-6
 1. Jesus 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 Samaritan 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 and then cross over to Galilee or take the sea route, even though Samaria was the shortest route.

- b. The Samaritans were considered half breed by the Jews and hatred was thick 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. They were refused to be part of the work and became adversaries to Nehemiah. Ezra 4:1-3, Neh. 6:1-4
 - e. They set up their own priests feared the lord yet served their own gods.
3. Jesus came to where the woman would be coming, the city of Sychar. vs. 5-6
- 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. Jacob's well was to be the place meeting.
 - 1) Jesus was weary from the journey, evidence of His humanity.
 - 2)The word for well "pege" means a well fed by a running spring and is used twice. vs. 6, 14
 - 3) Jesus arrived at the 6th hour to the well.

* Hebrew time would make it twelve noon, Roman time would make it six in the evening

Illustration

I was in a Kung-Fu studio with my eye punctured when God saved me, He knew the opportune time.

Application

1. Jesus has saved people on their dying beds.
2. Jesus has saved people in the worst of situations.
3. Jesus has saved people in church.
4. Jesus has saved people when they least expected it to happen.

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

II. By seeking out confession of sin. vs. 7-18

- A. Jesus is the initiator of the conversation. vs. 7-9
 1. Jesus asked her if she would give Him a drink. vs. 7
 2. Jesus was left alone as His disciples went to buy food. vs. 8
 3. She responds in two ways. vs. 9
 - a. She was surprised at His request being a Jew, probably by His speech.
 - b. She was sarcastic to Him declaring the prejudice of the Jew against the Samaritans.

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

1. Her understanding is blind to spiritual things. vs. 10
 - a. She did not know what the gift of God was, namely salvation, "If you knew the gift of God".
 - b. She did not know who He was, namely Messiah, "Who it is that asks you, 'Give Me drink', you would of asked Him".
 - c. She did not ask Him for the living water she needed, "He would have given you living water."
2. Her understanding was based on human reasoning.
 - a. She is respectful and calls Jesus Sir. vs. 11a-b
 - b. She can not see from where He will get this living water, since the well is deep and He has nothing to draw with. vs. 11c-e
* The well being 100 feet deep.
 - c. She desires to know if He is greater than their father Jacob who gave them the well? 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 attempts to show her the emptiness of the earthly things. vs. 13-15
 1. Jesus declares the temporal satisfaction of the earthly water, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again". vs. 13
 2. Jesus declares the permanent satisfaction of the water He gives, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst again". vs. 14a
 3. Jesus declares the inner resource that would bubble up into eternal life from within the person who receives this living water. vs. 14b
 4. She could only see the physical and immediate benefit of not having to come to draw water any longer. vs. 15
- D. Jesus reveal her sin. vs. 16-18
 1. Jesus reveals her present sin to move her towards repentance by confessing her sin. vs. 16
 2. She confesses her sin by acknowledging that she has no husband. vs. 17a-b
 3. Jesus acknowledges her confession, "You have well said, 'I have no husband'". vs. 17c-d
 4. Jesus reveals her life of sin. vs. 18
 - a. She had been married five times.

- b.** She was presently living with a man who was not her husband.
 * Jesus knew what was in every person even their thoughts before they got there. 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 divorced from her last husband.

Illustration

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

Application

1. Jesus desires to show each person the spiritual need in their lives.
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.
3. Jesus desires to reveal our sin that we might confess it, be forgiven and forsaken it.

God is always seeking man to confess his sins!

III By accepting Him as Messiah. vs. 19-26

- A.** Jesus is acknowledged as a prophet by her. vs. 19
1. He first was just a Jew. vs. 9
 2. He was addressed with respect, "Sir". vs. 11b, 15b
 3. He is now one who God speaks to and through, a prophet.
- B.** Jesus removes 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? 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 declares an appointed time when earthly localities will cease to be the center of worship. vs. 21
 - a. He prefaces the statement by, "Woman believe Me", emphasizing

the truth a authority of what He is about to say.

- b. He states, "the hour is coming" meaning it is future.

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

1. She worshipped what she did not know.
2. Jews worshipped what they did know, for salvation was of the Jews, and Jesus includes Himself as knowing the true worship by the pronoun "we".

D. Jesus declares her invitation to worship God. vs. 23-24

1. He reveals that the time has come that all of mankind can worship God regardless of race. vs. 23
 - a. It is future and already present, "Is coming and now is".
 - b. It is open to sincere worshipers, "When true worshipers will worship".
 - c. It is a worship of the, "Father in spirit and truth; for God seek such to worship Him".
2. He reveals the nature of God and the nature of worship. vs. 24
 - a. God is not a physical being but is spirit.
 - b. God *must* be worshipped in spirit and truth.

* This is the second "must" in the chapter, no exceptions!

1) In spirit means 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, namely His word.

* Of the 25 times it appears in John the majority refer to God's word or gospel.

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

1. She confesses her belief in the coming of the Messiah. vs. 25a-c
2. She concurs that when Messiah comes He will tell the Samaritan's all things, politely she was saying I don't know if a believe You! vs. 25d-e
3. Jesus declares to her that He was the Messiah, "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. 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

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Jn. 3:17

Application

1. Do you acknowledge Jesus only as a prophet, that is not good enough.
2. Do you get real religious when you are confronted with the gospel and salvation to avoid the issue?
3. Do you see your own ignorance about spiritual things as the Scriptures are shared with you?
4. Do you accept the invitation to except Jesus as Messiah when it is offered to you?

God is always desiring man to except Him as Messiah!

IV. By using her as His instrument. vs. 27-42

- A. The woman goes and tells others about Jesus. vs. 27-30
 1. The disciples were returning and marveled that Jesus was talking to a woman. vs. 27
 2. The woman left her waterpot, went into the city and went to speak directly to the men who were well aquatinted with her reputation. vs. 28-30
 - a. She told them of Jesus who told her all she had ever done.

- b. She caught their attention by saying, "Could this be the Messiah?", so that each man could have to decide for themselves.
- c. They came out of the city and came to Jesus.

- B. The disciples are 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, as they asked Jesus to eat. vs. 31
 - b. Jesus declares that He had food which they knew nothing about. vs. 32
 - c. The disciples tried and figure out if someone had brought Him some food? vs. 33
 - d. Jesus plainly declares to them that His food was to do the will of His Father who sent Him and to finish the work. vs. 34
 2. The work is a harvest of people. vs. 35-38
 - a. Don't be procrastinators, the harvest is ready. vs. 35
* Without any doubt at this time the crowds were coming as Jesus pointed to them, the harvest!

- b. The harvest involves peoples eternal life which should cause great joy in the sower and reaper. vs. 36
 - c. The disciples are sent out to the harvest. vs. 37-38
 - 1) Some sow and others reap. vs. 37
 - 2) They were going to reap the labors of other men. vs. 38
- * Paul some plant some water but God gives the increase. 1Cor. 3:6-8

- C. The Samaritans received salvation. vs. 39-42
 - 1. Many believed due to the word of the woman. vs. 39
 - 2. They urged Jesus to stay and did so for two days. vs. 40
 - 3. Many more believed due to Jesus' own words. vs. 41
 - 4. They confessed their own conviction of Jesus being the "Savior of the world". vs. 42
 - 1) The phrase 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". 1Tm. 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 to after salvation is our family and familiar friends for they knew how we were.
 2. The Christian must never forget that the harvest is ready and that sometimes we will sow and at other times reap but God gives the increase, we are but laborers.
 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 always uses those He saves as His instruments to reach 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, which is the severest pain known to man. 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 bell to paradise. #7569

The story of J.C. Penney is no different than the Samaritan woman, Jesus saved them both even as He can save you in the same way.

- I. By reaching out at the opportune times. vs.
1-6
- II. By seeking out confession of sin.
- III By accepting Him as Messiah.
- IV. By using her as His instrument.