



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 10

John 4:16-43

I. The rest of the conversation

An abrupt shift in the conversation (16-18)

- ❖ John 4:16-18-- *Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband, and come here. 17 The woman answered him, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, You are right in saying, I have no husband ; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.*
 - On the surface this seems quite odd. Why is Jesus changing the subject like this? It seemed that his goal was to get this lady to ask for living water (John 4:10) and now she has (John 4:15). What does this tell us about Jesus' purpose for this conversation?
 - It tells us that he is not merely interested in getting her to make a decision. He wants her to know him. He isn't going to leave her with a superficial knowledge of who he is. He isn't going to leave her until she is absolutely dazzled with his glory! Thus he reveals to her that he knows everything about her. He reveals to her that even her deepest darkest secrets are known to him. He is omniscient God in the flesh.
 - ❖ Psalm 139:1-4--*O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.*
 - ❖ John 2:24-25--*But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*
 - We must remember this as we evangelize. All too often our goal is to get someone to make a decision. We ought to aim even higher. We ought to seek to dazzle people with the glory of Christ.

The woman's diversion (19-20)

- ❖ John 4:19-20--*The woman said to him, Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.*
 - What we see here is that Jesus knowing everything about her made her quite uncomfortable. She was certainly amazed that Jesus knew everything about her as we will see a bit later (John 4:39), but she desperately wanted to change the subject. Jesus was speaking openly about a topic she spent her whole life trying to avoid. She had to think fast and it appears her thoughts went something like this...
 - (1) This guy is definitely a prophet...
 - (2) Prophets love theological stuff...
 - (3) Thus, a debate about which worship location should distract him from talking about the thing that I am most ashamed of.

Jesus' response (21-26)

- On the surface, it appears that Jesus has taken the bait. It looks like she was able to throw Jesus off topic. However, when we remember that Jesus' goal in this conversation was to dazzle this woman with his glory, we see that he was not thrown off one bit. He dazzles her with the following truths about himself.
 1. He is the place we ought to worship



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- ❖ John 4:21--*Jesus said to her, Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.*
 - She wants to know whether the Jews or the Samaritans are right about where to worship the Father. Before he answers that question (from a historical perspective), he informs her that she is living at an exciting time. A time in which the answer to that question is changing right before her very eyes! In the Old Testament, God's people built a tent (tabernacle) and temples. This was how God's people met with the Father. Now, Jesus has come to tabernacle among us (John 1:14)! Jesus is now the temple that we come to to worship the Father (John 2:19-22). In him we are reconciled to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18, Romans 5:10; 1 John 2:2)! In him we are made children of the Father (John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26)!
- 2. He is the fulfillment of the Jewish scriptures**
- ❖ John 4:22--*You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*
 - He is saying three things here in verse 22. He is saying...
 - (1) Samaritans don't understand the character of God because they reject so much of the Old Testament which reveals his character. If you were to go through our sermon series on the attributes of God, you would notice that the majority of the verses come from the Old Testament and many of these verse are from the prophets. The Samaritans would not know any of these passages because they rejected all but the first 5 books of the Old testament.
 - (2) Jews had the Old Testament and they knew the character of God as he revealed himself in the Old Testament.
 - (3) It is through these people (the Jews) that salvation would come to the world.
- 3. He has been sent to gather true worshippers for the Father**
- ❖ John 4:23-24--*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*
 - An astute reader will ask themselves two questions when reading these verses. They will ask...
 - (1) What is meant by seeking?
 - Does it mean that God is wandering around the world trying to find people who are willing and able to worship him? If it does then we have a huge problem. Because the Bible is explicitly clear that no one is willing to worship God (Romans 3:10-12) and no one is able to worship God (Romans 8:7-8). Thus, if this is what we mean by seeking, then God will find none and all will be damned.
 - Fortunately for us, this is not what is meant by seeking in John 4:23-24. What is meant is that God is pursuing us in order to make us into people who would worship Him in spirit and in truth. He has sent Jesus to accomplish this. In Jesus, we are made into true worshippers.
 - (2) What is a true worshipper? What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?



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- A true worshipper is one who worships God from their inner being (spirit) and one who worships God for who he is (truth). This is what Jesus is saying to this woman.
- However, this is not all that these verses teach us. We cannot miss the implicit teaching of the triune nature of God. You see we are made true worshippers of the **Father** when we are born of the **Holy Spirit** and place our faith in the way, the *truth*, and the life (John 14:6) **Jesus, the Son of God**.

4. He is the Messiah!

- ❖ John 4:25-26--*The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am he.*
 - She is utterly baffled by what s being said. She is trying to comprehend the meaning of what he is saying but is having difficulty following. Thus she brings it down to what she thinks might possibly be happening before her eyes. She is saying, "the messiah is supposed to show up and tell us everything. You just told me everything I ever did and said a whole lot about God and how we are going to worship him. Does that mean that you are Him?"
 - His response is breath taking. Not because he does anything dramatic. Not because his voice gets all deep and he sounds all great and powerful. It is breath taking because Jesus was extremely guarded about revealing his messianic identity. "He scarce ever said anything like this to His own people, the Jews.¹" Yet here he is speaking openly about himself to a Samaritan woman.

II. The responses to the conversation

- ❖ John 4:27-42--*Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, What do you seek? or, Why are you talking with her? 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ? 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.*

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, Rabbi, eat. 32 But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. 33 So the disciples said to one another, Has anyone brought him something to eat? 34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. 35 Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest ? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman 's testimony, He told me all that I ever did. 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.



The disciples (27, 31-33)

1. The disciple were embarrassed

¹ Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*.



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2. The disciples were oblivious

- Even later, the disciple never got around to asking Jesus “what were you doing back at the well?” Jesus was working in might and power in the life of a lady as they walk up and they never even noticed. They weren’t seeking first the kingdom of God, they were seeking to fill their bellies.
- ★ Do you ever find yourself responding this way? Is Christ doing amazing things all around you and you are so preoccupied with your own needs that you miss them entirely? Even worse, does your inability to understand what Christ is doing in difficult situations leave you embarrassed? When tragedy strikes and people ask, “where was God!?” do you shrink back? Passages like this ought to remind us that he is always working out some glorious way of glorifying the Father even when it seems impossible to discern to our eyes.

The Samaritan Woman (28-29)

1. The Samaritan woman was dazzled
2. The Samaritan woman couldn’t keep from sharing

- ★ Are we like the Samaritan woman? Are we dazzled with who Jesus’ has revealed himself to be? Are we so in awe that we cannot help but share Christ with everyone we know?

Jesus (32-38)

1. Jesus was fully satisfied
2. Jesus compassionately taught his disciples not to miss what was going on. He revealed to him their part in God’s glorious plan.

Other Samaritans (30, 39-42)

1. They were intrigued by the woman’s testimony
 2. They were convinced by Jesus’ testimony
- ★ All fear of failure in evangelizing will be gone if we could only truly understand that though it is our job to tell people about Jesus, Jesus is responsible for convincing people of the reality of who he is.