

We return to the fascinating story of Jesus and the woman at the well. So far, we have seen Jesus exhaust Himself as He hikes about 20 miles one morning in order to be at the well when the woman shows up to draw water.

Jesus initiates the conversation, ignoring man-made prejudice and social practice. The fact that she is a Samaritan, a woman, and an adulterer does not stop Him from seeking her out, engaging her, and revealing to her that He is the Messiah, God in human flesh (John 1:14).

As we pick up the story, Jesus has just revealed His identity to her, and now the disciples return from the village where they went to buy food.

27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28 So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" 30 They went out of the city, 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 were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 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, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for

we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

Throughout this story we see how Jesus is in complete control of the situation. Everything happens according to His divine timetable. Jesus arrives at the well, and the disciples are sent to town at just the right time for the woman to show up and have a private conversation with Jesus. Then, the moment He reveals Himself to the woman, the disciples return to witness Him speaking with her. But, they don't arrive too soon as to interrupt. Later we will see this perfect timing again.

The disciples are amazed when they see Jesus speaking with the woman, but they have the decency to not interrupt with their questions. They are coming to realize that Jesus does not follow man's custom, but the will of the Father.

The woman, so changed by her encounter with Jesus, abandons her initial intent to get water (leaves the water jar), and hurries to tell others about what she has experienced. Her thirst is forgotten, she has received the living water that Jesus had promised.

The woman goes back to her village, to the very people who despised her for her immorality, and tells them about Jesus. She is overflowing as Jesus had said, "**the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**" Not only had she received eternal life, but it would overflow from her into the village as well. This woman, probably the least likely in the village, would be the source of living water coming to the village.

Notice that since Jesus had revealed her sin, and she had received eternal life, the sin was no longer a source of shame. Instead, it became a testimony to the power of God to change her. As she came to the village and encountered the men sitting at the gate (customary practice), she said to them, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done." She spoke of Jesus' divine knowledge of her past as proof that He must be the Messiah. Her testimony was compelling enough that the men got up and went to see Jesus.

Meanwhile, back at the well the disciples got out the food they had purchased in town and urged Jesus to eat. Like

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the woman who had just left the water jar, Jesus' hunger and thirst had been forgotten. "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work," he explained to the disciples.

This statement is very similar to Deuteronomy 8:3 where Moses writes, "Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." Jesus found much greater satisfaction from doing the will of God (He often refers to God as the one who sent Him) by proclaiming the truth of salvation to a lost sinner, than by eating physical food. The joy of seeing an outcast woman receive eternal life made physical thirst and hunger fade away.

"Do you not say there are yet four months, then comes the harvest?" As Jesus spoke these words, the disciples could see green crops still four months away from harvest time. Jesus told them to look up and see that the fields were white for harvest. Again, the timing is clearly orchestrated by God because at that moment the people from the village could be seen coming to see Jesus. *They* were the harvest Jesus was referring too. As they walked toward Jesus and the disciples at the well, their white clothes were in stark contrast to the green fields. They appeared as heads of grain white for harvest.

Jesus knew that many of those coming would believe just as He knew the woman's past. He was telling the disciples that the harvest was already here. They were going to reap a spiritual harvest of souls that would believe in Jesus. The time for harvest was now!

Although the disciples had not done any of the sowing, they were going to take part in the joy of the harvest. As is often the case in the spiritual realm, some sow the seeds by witnessing to others, but it is often someone else who takes part in the harvest when that person comes to faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." Though the disciples had not been part of the sowing, they were going to enter into the labor by being part of the reaping. Those who sowed, and those who reaped, would rejoice together in the spiritual harvest of those who believed in Jesus.

Many people from the village believed in Jesus because of the testimony of the woman. They saw the divine nature of Christ because of His supernatural knowledge of the woman. When the people from the village reached Jesus, they begged Him to stay, which He did for two whole days. What a privilege! To spend two days with the Messiah! Not many others had this exclusive

privilege. As a result, many more believed when they heard Jesus for themselves.

It was no longer because of the woman's testimony that they believed, but because they experienced the teaching of Jesus for themselves. This confirmed the woman's testimony. What she had told them was indeed true. She had asked the men: "Could this be the Messiah?" Their answer was now a resounding **"YES! This is the Savior of the World!"**

All forty-two verses of this incredible story lead to this important statement. Jesus is the Savior of the world! Jesus did not come just for the Jew, for the privileged, for the social elite, the wealthy, or the religious. He came to save *the world*, meaning every type of individual. God came in human flesh in the person of Jesus. His death and resurrection which conquered sin and death is the good news that is available to anyone.

The woman at the well is representative of this truth. She was a woman in a society that did not value women, and she was viewed as ethnically inferior. She engaged in immoral behavior, yet Jesus sought her out. Her testimony then led to the village recognizing Jesus as the Savior of the world.

John tells us later in the gospel that he writes these things so that "you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

We have seen the testimony of the woman and the village in this story. **DO YOU BELIEVE in Jesus as the woman and many in the village did?**



Bible Studies:

7:00 am Tuesdays – Bible study – Governor's Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

8:00 pm Tuesdays – Legislator Only Bible Study – Perkins

