

John 4:1-42 **Woman at the Well – Samaritans Believe**

Jesus returned from Judea to Galilee through Samaria

¹ Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.

Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well

⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came 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 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Living Water

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 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² 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?"

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Call Your Husband

¹⁶ Jesus 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 well said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ 'for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Worship in Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem?

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Messiah (Christ)

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (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."

Disciples Return

²⁷ 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?"

Come, see a Man, Could this be the Christ (Messiah)?

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

My Food is to do the Will of Him Who Sent Me

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Fields are White For The Harvest

35 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! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this 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 labors."

Samaritans Believe

39 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." 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word.

This is the Christ (Messiah), the Savior of the World

42 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." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ From John's baptism where John had introduced Jesus to his disciples, [John 1:24-36] Jesus went to Galilee for the wedding at Cana, [John 1:42-51, 2:1-12] and returned to Jerusalem for the Passover where He cleansed the Temple. [John 2:13-25]
- ✚ Jesus met with Nicodemus and then went down to the Jordan where his disciples baptized those who came to Him. [John 3:1-36]
- ✚ 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), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria. [John 4:1-4]
 - ◇ Jews seldom went through Samaria because they despised the Samaritans who were not of the Jewish race but had been transplanted into the area when the King of Assyria had removed the Israelites and replaced them with foreigners. [2 Kings 17:6-28, 1 Chronicles 5:25-26]
 - ◇ So the Samaritans feared Yehowah, but worshipped their own gods also. [2 Kings 17:29-41]
 - ◇ Like Christians today, after many generations and hundreds of years the Samaritans began to relate to themselves as descendants from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob which indicated an association with the land of Israel on which they lived.
 - ◇ Jesus went out of the normal path in order to meet this woman at Jacob's Well for the interchange that resulted in the salvation of many Samaritans.
 - ◇ Jesus needed to go through Samaria because He knew at the time He would be sitting at the well the woman would come to draw water so He could speak to her alone freely.

- ✧ This is similar to when Jesus left Capernaum at the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, went all the way across the state of Galilee and north into Lebanon to the area of Tyre and Sidon in order to meet the woman whose daughter was demon possessed. Jesus cast out the demon and returned to the Sea of Galilee. [Mark 7:24-31, Matthew 15:21-29]

Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well

- ✧ The city of Sychar in Samaria was situated near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph where Jacob had dug a well. [John 4:5-9]
- ✧ Sychar is located on the eastern slope of Mount Ebal one half mile north of Jacob's Well.
- ✧ Jesus stayed at the well about the sixth hour of the day while the disciples went into the city to buy food.
- ✧ Jesus asked her for a drink, which surprised the woman, because Jews usually had no dealings with Samaritans.
- ✧ Jesus used this approach to engage the woman in a conversation that would ultimately reach many people of the city.

Living Water

- ✧ Jesus introduced Himself as the source of Living water, which the woman found appealing thinking it would save her from the task of carrying water for her household. [John 4:10-15]
- ✧ However she questioned Him for saying it by asking, "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?"
- ✧ The answer Jesus gave caused her to say, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Call Your Husband

- ✧ Jesus was able to touch on a secret of her life that no stranger would possibly know, regarding her relationship with men. [John 4:16-18]

Worship in Mount Ebal or Jerusalem?

- ✧ The evidence of His knowledge of her intimate secret caused her to realize that Jesus is a prophet, so she asked a key question that reflected the most obvious difference between the Jews and Samaritans worship of God.
- ✧ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." [John 4:19-20]
- ✧ Mount Ebal north of Shechem, where the Altar was erected and the Laws of God written on the stones of the Altar when Israel entered the Promised Land, is the place where the Samaritans worshipped God, while the Jews worshipped at the Temple at Jerusalem.
- ✧ This was a logical question to ask one of authority, which one is correct? When there is a difference in a particular aspect of worship, it is normal to ask which one is correct.

Jesus' answer is very revealing:

- ✧ "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. [John 4:21-24]
- ✧ Jesus knew that the people, Jews and Samaritans, living on the land of Israel would be driven from the land and the Temple would be destroyed leaving the land a desolate wasteland with no one giving much thought toward worshipping the God of Israel. [Matthew 23:37-39, 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, Luke 13:34-35, 21:5-6]
- ✧ The Samaritans did not have the historic personal experience of God who had led the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, made them a great nation in the land of Canan, cared for them through the time of the Judges of Israel, the kings of Israel, cast them out of

the land when they persistently sinned, by the hand of the Assyrians and Babylonians, and had brought them back to the land of Israel to be His people until the time of Christ.

- ✧ The Jews had all this as their historic heritage as God kept His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that through their seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. The Jews were the remnant of the seed of promise through whom the Messiah (Christ) came into the world bringing Salvation to all who believe.
- ✧ Therefore, Jesus said, You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. [John 4:22]
- ✧ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." [John 4:23-24]
- ✧ True worship of God is not based on location or structure, but from the heart of the individual in spirit and truth, and the time had come for that focus to begin as Jesus revealed the heart of God to the world.
- ✧ This is the kind of worship the Father is seeking from devoted and committed believers.
- ✧ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
- ✧ The problem that troubled God about their worship was that it was focused on location and form, rather than spirit and truth.

The Messiah (Christ)

- ✧ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." [John 4:25]
- ✧ The Samaritans knew that they and the Jews were all waiting and looking for the arrival of the Messiah (Christ), and that He would bring the answer to all religious questions, revealing the heart of God to the people.
- ✧ Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**" [John 4:26]
- ✧ You can not get a clearer answer than that. Jesus clearly declared Himself to be the long awaited Messiah of Israel, the Christ, the Savior of the world.

Disciples Return

- ✧ 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?" [John 4:27]

Come, see a Man, Could this be the Christ (Messiah)?

- ✧ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" [John 4:28-29]
- ✧ When someone makes a claim as Jesus did when He clearly declared that He was indeed the Messiah, we all tend to seek confirmation from others of what appears a valid claim.
- ✧ Leaving the waterpot behind at the well, she went to the city and consulted with those who had been her religious leaders wanting them to check out the claim. Usually there is more security in opinion when there is agreement among many counselors in regard to the evidence presented.
- ✧ Her words of testimony were persuasive enough to cause them to go out of the city to hear Him. [John 4:39]
- ✧ Jesus said, "They overcame Satan by the blood of the lamb and **the word of their testimony.**" The personal testimony is one of the most powerful tools we have to overcome the doubters and scoffers.
- ✧ Then they went out of the city and came to Him. [John 4:30]

My Food is to do the Will of Him Who Sent Me

- ✧ In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." [John 4:31]
- ✧ But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." [John 4:32]

✚ Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" [John 4:33]

✚ Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**" [John 4:34]

Fields are White For The Harvest

✚ Referring to the mass of people coming to Him from the city, Jesus compared it to the harvest at the end of the growing season which was still four months away. Jesus said, "Look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest." [John 4:35]

✧ The harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God is always ongoing.

✧ One sows and another reaps, as they are both serving the same Master, gathering Fruit for Eternal Life. Both will rejoice together as they receive their rewards. [John 4:36-38, Galatians 6:8, Luke 15:7, 10, 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20]

Samaritans Believe

✚ 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.**" [John 4:39]

✚ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And **many more believed because of His own word.** [John 4:40-41]

✧ Jesus stayed with the Samaritans two more days for the sake of those who would believe after hearing Him directly, though Jesus claimed He came for the Jews first, He demonstrated His love extended to the Gentiles as well. [Matthew 8:5-13, 15:21-28, Luke 7:1-10, Acts 10:1-48]

This is the Christ (Messiah), the Savior of the World

✚ 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.**"

✧ This is confirmation by many counselors.