

## A Demonstration of God's Love for the Whole World

John 4:1-42

July 31, 2022

1. Jesus demonstrates the Father's love for the whole world (1-30)
  - a. Jesus' Return to Galilee through Samaria (1-6)
    - i. Jesus leaves Judaea in their unbelief and departs into Galilee (1-3).
      1. Jesus leaves behind the Pharisees who view Him as a mounting threat (1-2).
      2. Jesus' temporary abandonment of Judea was a vivid rebuke of His opponents there (3).
    - ii. Jesus was divinely compelled to turn his attention to Samaria (4-6).
      1. The Father sent Jesus to Samaria in demonstration of His love for the entire world (4; cf. 3:16).
        - a. Jesus was the One through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3).
        - b. The Samaritans were enemies of the Jews because they intermingled the worship of God with the worship of the gods of Babylon. At this point in history, there had already been over 2 centuries of violent conflict between the two groups.
      2. Jesus arrives at Jacob's well, exhausted from His journey (5-6).
        - a. Jacob's well was a place of blessing to the people of God and would now provide the setting to illustrate the extent of that blessing (5).
        - b. Jesus arrives at noon, having endured the heat of the day, and is wearied by His journey; Jesus' mission cost Him much hardship, and would eventually cost Him His life (6).
  - b. Jesus' Request for Water (7-9)
    - i. Jesus initiates a conversation with the Samaritan woman (7).
      1. The Samaritan woman is a great representation not only of her people, but humanity as a whole; not just enemies of the people of God, but enemies of God Himself.
      2. Jesus initiates the conversation demonstrating God's initiation of love toward mankind despite our sinful condition (Romans 5:8).
    - ii. The reason Jesus makes this request of the Samaritan woman is that the disciples have gone in search of food, and he is there alone (8).
    - iii. The Samaritan woman replies with a question pointing out the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans (9).
      1. Her question and statement can be viewed as a rebuke, "Don't you know I'm a Samaritan?"
      2. The Samaritan woman is in conflict with the Son of God, just as the Jews in Judaea, just as all mankind.
  - c. Jesus' Offer of Living Water (10-12)
    - i. Jesus' reply demonstrates His love for the Samaritan woman despite her animosity (10).
      1. The problem is not that Jesus doesn't know who she is; the problem is that the woman doesn't know who He is!
      2. Jesus is not just a weary Jewish traveler, He is the unique Son of God, the very expression of the love of God for her!
      3. She is unaware of the gift of God which is eternal life (cf. 3:16).
      4. Jesus describes this gift as "living water."
        - a. Jeremiah 17:13 "they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters."
        - b. Revelation 7:16-17 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
        - c. Revelation 21:6 "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."
    - ii. The woman's response is respectful but still confused (11-12).
      1. She addresses him respectfully, but she can only see the physical reality (11).
      2. She asks if He is greater than their mutual father, Jacob (12).
        - a. The fact that she acknowledges common ground in a common ancestor marks a turning point in the dialogue.
        - b. Though respectful, the woman still doubts the sincerity of Jesus' offer.
  - d. Jesus' Explanation of Living Water (13-15)
    - i. Everyone who drinks from Jacob's well will thirst again, but whoever drinks of Jesus' water will never thirst again (13-14).
      1. Jesus' water provides eternal satisfaction.
      2. The water that Jesus provides springs up into an eternal fountain of life.
        - a. Isaiah 12:3 "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."
        - b. Isaiah 55:1-5
    - ii. The woman's response reveals that she still does not understand the nature of this water (15).
  - e. Jesus' Compassionate Exposure of Her Need (16-18)
    - i. Though the woman doesn't know Jesus, Jesus demonstrates His full knowledge of her (16).
      1. His purpose is not to shame her, but to draw her out.
      2. He wants her to realize the nature of the water that He provides and of her need for it.
    - ii. Jesus compassionately exposes her sin, which His water can cleanse (17-18; cf. Zechariah 13:1).
      1. Jesus compassionately exposes the fact that she has spoken truthfully; she has been married five times, and the woman she's living with now is not her husband.

2. Jesus is not condemning the woman (cf. 3:18); He is gently pointing out her need for cleansing that only He can provide (cf. Zechariah 13:1).
  3. Rather than condemning the woman, each of us should see ourselves in her, because we too are sinners in need of cleansing.
- f. Jesus' Definition of True Worship and Worshipers (19-24)
- i. The woman now realizes that she's in the presence of a prophet (19).
  - ii. The woman is now beginning to realize that Jesus is speaking spiritually, but how can Jesus raise such spiritual things with her when they do not agree on where and how to worship God (20).
  - iii. Jesus addresses the heart of the matter (21-24).
    1. He addresses her affectionately as woman, the same affectionate title He uses to address His mother.
    2. He asks her to believe Him.
    3. He points out that the object of her worship is uncertain, and tragically, the Jews who were to be a blessing to the nations, failed in their evangelization of the nations.
    4. He reveals to her that true worship is in Spirit and truth, not in a place.
    5. Since God is a Spirit, those that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.
      - a. Spirit and truth describes the manner in which one receives the Gift of God and drinks of the living water that Jesus provides.
      - b. Those who believe the truth about Jesus are born again by the Holy Spirit (cf. 3:1-16).
- g. Jesus' Confession (25-26)
- i. The woman responds that she is aware of Messianic prophecies, but she doesn't realize she's speaking to the Messiah Himself (25).
  - ii. Jesus responds emphatically, I, I am he (26).
    1. The I AM who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, has now been proclaimed to the Samaritan woman in the person of Jesus Christ!
    2. The I AM is the Object of faith for both Jew and Gentile!
2. Jesus' disciples witness God's love for the world (27-38)
- a. The disciples are amazed that Jesus would talk to this Samaritan woman (27).
  - b. The woman abandons her water jar in favor of living water which she must share with others (28-30).
    - i. She invites others to come and see for themselves.
    - ii. By her question, she proclaims Him as the Messiah.
    - iii. The men of the city respond by coming to see for themselves.
  - c. The disciples struggle to understand the spiritual nature of what is transpiring (31-34).
    - i. Jesus responds that He has nourishment that they do not yet understand (31-32).
    - ii. Jesus clarifies what satisfies Him: doing the work of His Father, which is the redemption of mankind (33-34).
  - d. Jesus commissions the disciples to join Him in doing the work of His Father (35-38).
    - i. Those who've been satisfied by the living water should lift their eyes to the white harvest of souls (35).
    - ii. Those who reap enter into the joys of a harvest of eternal souls (36).
    - iii. Just as the disciples labored in spiritual fields already cultivated by men and women of faith over many centuries, we in the church age are working in fields in which God has been preparing for many years (37-38).
3. "The Savior of the Word" (39-42)
- a. Many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus in response to the woman's testimony of faith (39).
  - b. The Samaritans demonstrated their faith by pleading with Jesus to stay and teach them (40).
  - c. Many more believed because of Jesus own word (41-42).

Conclusion:

1. Have you drunk of the living water that Jesus provides? Have you recognized that your sin separates you from God? Have you trusted in Jesus alone to be your Savior, your fountain of living water?
2. If you have received the living water, do you find continued satisfaction in introducing others to Jesus?
  - a. Do you engage lost people in conversation for the purpose of sharing Christ with them?
  - b. Do you compassionately point people to their need for redemption?
  - c. Do you look for opportunities to share your testimony with others?
  - d. Do you expect to find people who are already prepared for your witness?
  - e. Do your actions demonstrate a belief that God loves the entire world, every segment of society, or do they indicate a bias against those who are not like you?