

A Demonstration of God's Love for the Whole World, Part 2

John 4:1-42

August 7, 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).
 - 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).
 2. Jesus arrives at Jacob's well, exhausted from His journey (5-6).
 - b. Jesus' Request for Water (7-9)
 - i. Jesus initiates a conversation with the Samaritan woman (7).
 - 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).
 - c. Jesus' Offer of Living Water (10-12)
 - i. Jesus' reply demonstrates His love for the Samaritan women despite her animosity (10).
 - ii. The woman's response is respectful but still confused (11-12).
 - 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).
 - 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).
 - ii. Jesus compassionately exposes her sin, which His water can cleanse (17-18; cf. Zechariah 13:1).
 - 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).
 - 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).
 - i. They're minds are full of questions, but they didn't have the courage to ask them.
 - ii. The disciples were so overwhelmed with social stigmas that they completely missed what Jesus was doing in that moment.
 - iii. It is so easy to let the fear of others opinions keep us from recognizing golden opportunities to share the Gospel.
 - 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.
 1. She simply invited others to come and see.
 2. She shared her own personal testimony.
 - a. It's difficult to argue with someone's personal experiences.
 - b. Even the newest of disciples can be an effective witness simply by sharing their testimony.
 - i. A good testimony shares who you were before Christ.
 - ii. A good testimony shares how you trusted Christ.
 - iii. A good testimony shares who you've become after meeting Christ.
 3. She asked a leading question.
 - a. Questions can be more powerful than entire sermons.
 - b. Questions can ignite a search for truth.
 - c. Questions can help you to guide a conversation to spiritual things.
 - iii. The men of the city respond by coming to see for themselves.
 1. Showing is so much better than telling.
 2. Questions encourage people to search the scriptures to find out 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).
 1. The disciples are so focused on the physical, that they couldn't recognize the spiritual.
 2. The disciples still did not understand the work that Jesus was sent to accomplish.

- ii. Jesus clarifies what satisfies Him: doing the work of His Father, which is the redemption of mankind (33-34).
 - 1. Even in trying to serve Jesus, the disciples are too confused to recognize what Jesus was doing.
 - 2. Jesus found satisfaction in being busy accomplishing His Father's work, the work of seeking the lost.
- 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).
 - 1. There is an abundant harvest to be reaped.
 - 2. The harvest is so plentiful that the need is more laborers, not a more plentiful harvest (Luke 9:37-38).
 - ii. Those who reap enter into the joys of a harvest of eternal souls (36).
 - 1. Those that work in the harvest can expect an eternal reward.
 - 2. Those that harvest finish the work started by previous faithful messengers.
 - 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).
 - 1. We have the privilege of working in fields that have been cultivated by others.
 - 2. Every time we go into the world we should be ready to harvest.
- 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).
 - i. Her testimony was simple, but powerful.
 - ii. Many believed in Jesus based entirely upon her testimony.
 - b. The Samaritans demonstrated their faith by pleading with Jesus to stay and teach them (40).
 - i. The fact that the Samaritans would come out to listen to a Jewish rabbi shows their humility and curiosity.
 - ii. Jesus was not received by His own people, but He was embraced by those who seemed like such unlikely converts; be careful with prejudging those you should or should not engage with the Gospel.
 - c. Many more believed because of Jesus own word (41-42).
 - i. Many more believed when they heard Jesus own word; point people back to the Word, because faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:14).
 - ii. These Samaritans were convinced that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world!

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?