

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Woman at the Well, Part 1

Last time...The start of Jesus Christ's Galilean ministry, when

- Government and Religion collaborated against God's faithful servant and witness of His Son
- the ministry of John the Baptist, Jesus' Forerunner in the spirit of Elijah, concludes

As it was when

1. the ministry ended for "the spirit of Elijah"
2. Jesus Christ fulfilled His mission as Suffering Servant and Lamb

so will it be when

1. Elijah concludes his ministry in Mal 4 and Rev 11
2. Jesus Christ fulfills His mission as Conquering King and Judge

This time...the Woman at the Well

- A conversation marked by
 - simplicity (by both)
 - affection (by both)
 - respect (by both)
 - faith (by the Samaritan woman)
- another 1:1 (personal and intimate) conversation of Jesus Christ...
 - very different than the last 1:1 (with Nicodemus)
 - woman vs man
 - simple and uneducated vs Master of Israel
 - Samaritan vs Jew
 - yet very similar
 - a gentle, loving revelation of the Kingdom of God and its King
 - at/near the site of a "dirty" Temple operated by a corrupt priesthood
 - in Jerusalem – Herod's (soon to be ruined)
 - in Samaria – ruins of an idolatrous temple built by Jews that rebelled against the Son of David, King of Judah

v5-6a Samaria...Sychar...Jacob's well:

Jesus Christ is in the Roman Empire province of Samaria, the heart of what once was the Northern Kingdom of Israel

(last Study in 1 & 2 Kings: divided kingdom, idolatry, all bad kings)

The town of Sychar is near, or is Shechem, where

- where Jacob bought a parcel of land (Gen 33:18-19)
- where Jacob dug a well (Deut 33:28?)
- where Joseph is buried (Joshua 24:32)
- 3 Roman roads met at some "watering holes", one of which was Jacob's well

[map: Jurisdiction]

The Valley of Shechem is between two mountains, Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, site of the "Blessings and Curses" pronounced in Deut 27-28

[map: Gerizim Ebal area]

Deut 27:9-13 And Moses and the priests the Levites spoke unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the people of the LORD thy God.

Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day.

And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:

And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

[map: Shechem]

This is the site of Jesus' appointment set from before the foundation of the world...a truth we capture with the word "Providence"

His appointment will be with a Samaritan woman who has head knowledge (but not heart knowledge, as we will see) of the words of Moses

The timing is early summer

- Jesus cleansed the Temple at Passover not that long ago
- v35...the fields are white already to harvest

v6b-8 wearied...sixth hour...Give me to drink:

Timestamp: noon...it is hot

Jesus Christ is alone at the well and is

- weary
- thirsty
- human...100% Man

Our weariness and our thirst, our needs and struggles, are not merely theoretical knowledge of God, they are real-life experiences by the God-Man
In His humanity, Jesus knows our conditions...and in His Deity is able to help

We must not forget that Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% Man...
He knows where we are...He is able to deliver us

To Him in His weary and thirsty condition at Jacob's well comes
a Samaritan woman

The timing of her coming tells us something about her – she is a social outcast
The “good” women of town would come to the well in the coolness of the
morning...she was not welcome then with them

To this social outcast Jesus Christ reaches out and speaks a natural, friendly,
gentle request – for a cool drink of water

In the dialogue resulting from this simple request lies

- a revelation of the heart of God to needy man
- an opportunity for man to choose how to respond to God's heart

Matt 10:40-42

Matt 25:31-46...Blessings (v35) and Curses (v42)

God sees: the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, in prison

I was thirsty and you gave Me drink...

when you gave to the least of these My brethren

The righteous (man after God's own heart) shall go to life eternal
in the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of
the world

I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink...

when you did not to the least of these My brethren

Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire/punishment

Heb 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some
have entertained angels unawares.

Self-examination:

Do I see what God sees...or am I too busy or self-absorbed?

Do I choose to reveal God's heart to the needy...or my heart?

How does the Samaritan woman respond?

v9 being a Jew...woman of Samaria...no dealings:

She responds with...surprise (unprepared to see and hear this Jewish Man)

It is apparent to the Samaritan woman that this Man is Jewish –

by His attire/appearance, by His speech

And, therefore, she is somewhat startled or taken aback that He would speak kindly to her, even if only asking for a drink of water, because

- she is a woman
 - a lesser being in the mindset of the typical Jewish male... despised in many ways
 - “Never speak to a woman on the street.”
 - “Burn the words of the Law rather than teach them to a woman.”
- she is a Samaritan
 - an alien/foreigner, a mongrel/half-breed in the mindset of the Jew...despised in all ways
 - “May I never set eyes on a Samaritan.” (term of reproach)
 - “May I never be thrown into company with a Samaritan.”
- the Jews have no dealings/interaction with Samaritans
 - Northern Kingdom conquered and taken into captivity by Assyria in 722BC
 - the Assyrian philosophy of conquest: destruction of national identity via
 - captivity
 - re-location/re-population by other conquered peoples
 - inter-marriage and assimilation
 - their method was disrupted by the God of Israel so priests were sent from Judah to appease the angry God of the land
 - Samaritans accepted
 - The Pentateuch/Books of Moses as the only inspired Word of God
 - Moses as the only prophet of God
 - Mount Gerizim as the only acceptable place of worship and where the Messiah would establish His throne
 - Thus, intense national jealousy and hostility existed between Jews and Samaritans, fueled primarily by the wicked pride of the Jews

She is a woman of Samaria – an outcast among outcasts
Therefore, this is a very noteworthy meeting with God become Man
Immediately discerned by the woman: This is no ordinary Jew

v10 the gift of God...living water:

Jesus answers the woman's "Why do you ask me for a drink" question by
"turning the tables" on her

"If you knew

1. the gift of God
2. Who I am

you would have asked Me for a drink of water rather than Me asking you for a drink of water.

And I would have given you living water."

1. What is the gift of God? (revealed in Jesus' previous 1:1)

- Eternal life (Ch 3:15-16)
- Salvation from condemnation (Ch 3:17)...our greatest need
Is 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *His* face from you, that He will not hear.

2. Who is Jesus?

- As was revealed in Jesus Christ's previous 1:1
 - Ch 3:14 God's Sacrifice for sin
 - Ch 3:16 the Son of God
- To be revealed to the woman in the course of this conversation

What is "living water"?

- To be revealed to the woman in this conversation
- Ch 7:37-39 God the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) is the "headwaters"
- It absolutely involves Jesus...a right relationship with God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit

v11-12 nothing to draw with...greater than our father:

Looking at the outward “reality”, what Jesus said is a physical impossibility...
it makes no sense

“Are you greater than Jacob, who used this very well himself?”...that is to say,
Do you have better water than this?
How can these things be? (Ch 3:9)

Hearing what this atypical Jewish Man just said, this simple woman does not
understand...but wants to – she is responding to God’s reaching out to her

v13-14 thirst again...never thirst...in him...everlasting life:

The woman’s question is honest and her desire to know is sincere...as was Nic
When we get thirsty, our fearfully and wonderfully made bodies are telling
us to hydrate or our internal systems will start shutting down
Thus, in the physical sense, water is life (without water there is no life)

Physical thirst is

- unending, a constant need to hydrate in order to live
- unpleasant at the least and agonizing at the most

Satisfying our thirst is...glorious!

By His answer, Jesus answers the woman’s questions, the asked and the unasked
“Yes, I am greater than Jacob.
Yes, I have better water than this well.”

The living water offered by Jesus Christ is...the gift of God, eternal life (v10a),

- satisfaction for the inward man...satisfaction for the spirit
- unending, perennial, supernatural vs temporary and dependent upon snowmelt or rainfall
- more than a felt need, a new life

Note: the devil/counterfeiter always has a counterfeit

- Fountain of Youth (during Counter-Reformation in RC Spain)
- Immortality gene (biotech start-up company)

In this simple, affectionate, respectful conversation with this simple Samaritan woman, Jesus Christ is saying that salvation and eternal life is the gift of God to

- all people
- Jew and Gentile
- even Samaritans!

Jesus Christ is speaking a glorious Truth into the heart of this Samaritan woman
How will she respond?

v15 give me this water:

The Samaritan woman responds...by faith

Jesus has reached her heart...the words He spoke touched all her needs

She does not understand yet she seeks...

it must be by faith that she seeks the “impossible”/incredible that
her eyes cannot see and her mind cannot comprehend

Clearly, she urgently desires the living water offered by Jesus

a. She seeks to never thirst physically again

b. She seeks to not be ashamed

Not just before the women of Sychar in the drawing of physical
water

but also before God in the welling up of spiritual water

She believes Jesus and she believes in Jesus

Who wouldn't want to never thirst again?!!!

Who wouldn't want to never be ashamed again?!!!

These things can only be by faith in the words and the Person of
Jesus Christ

Belief that He will satisfy both the outward and the inward man

Belief that He can and will give us life and take away our shame

Belief that in Him is complete and eternal satisfaction for...me

By faith in Jesus she has more than head knowledge...she has heart knowledge
(as simple as it may be right now)

What do we know about faith?

It must be tested

We will look at that next week

But thus far in Jesus Christ's conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well...

1. Salvation comes not in a group setting but in a 1:1 with Jesus Christ

Are you weary and thirsty?
Are you ashamed before God and man?

Only Jesus can both see and meet all your needs
Only in Jesus Christ will you be satisfied...completely, now and forever

The flesh, our body and emotions, will never be satisfied
Satisfaction comes only in the inward man, our spirit
Only Jesus Christ can satisfy the inward man, our spirit...now and forever

We were all outcasts (Rom 3:10, 23; Eph 2:1-4)...but God...(Eph 2:5-10)

What do you say to Jesus Christ's offer of the gift of God, living water?
Will you believe Him?
Will you believe in Him and in Him alone?
Will you be invited into the kingdom prepared from before the foundation
of the world or will you be cast out into everlasting punishment?

The Son of God came to us, God became Man, to offer us eternal life and
salvation from the condemnation of our sin against God
The Son of God came to reveal to us the Father and His heart

How will you respond to the revelation and the offer?

2. Do you have head knowledge of Jesus Christ...or heart knowledge?

Do you know only about Jesus...or do you know Him personally and intimately?

Has He ever spoken to you? (He has...have you heard Him?)
Were you surprised when He first spoke to you?
Not understanding what He said (because we were not able to), did you ask simple,
honest questions?
(honest with ourselves, honest with God...How can these things be?)
Hearing His answer, did you believe Him...did you believe in Him?

Not believing but knowing about Jesus...is head knowledge –
that does not save
Believing and knowing Jesus personally and intimately...his heart knowledge –
saving knowledge

Salvation comes by faith...faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Jesus Christ)
It is a matter of the heart, not the head...Matt 7:21-27