

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Woman at the Well, Part 3

Last time...the Samaritan woman's faith was tested, refined, and strengthened as
Jesus Christ plainly revealed Himself as the Jewish Messiah/Savior of the world

This time...the fruit of this appointment

v27 His disciples...marveled:

With v8 in mind, Jesus' 5 disciples return from their errand into town to get
food...and come upon their Rabbi/Master talking with a woman,
and a Samaritan woman at that!

They, who had been raised in the corrupt religion of Rabbinical Judaism,
were flabbergasted

Remember the cultural context:

- She is a woman
 - a lesser being in the mindset of the Jew...
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."
 - prayer of Rabbi Judah: "Blessed be You for not having made me a Gentile, a woman, or an ignoramus."
 - Pharisee Jesus ben Sirach: "Woman is the origin if sin, and it is through her we all die...out of the woman comes wickedness. A man's wickedness is better than a woman's goodness. It is woman who brings shame and disgrace."
 - Rabbi Hillel: "The more women, the more witchcrafts."
 - Pharisee Josephus: "A woman is in all things inferior to man."
- 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."

But...they did not question Him, bearing in mind perhaps

- John's testimony (Ch 1:29)
- His changing water into wine (Ch 2:1-11)

v28-29 The woman left her water pot:

The disciples' eyes met her...and her eyes met them.

She saw how they, more typical Jews than the Messiah, were looking at her

She knew her amazing conversation with the Messiah was over...

but she had to tell somebody Who she met and what He said to her!!!

The proper response to an encounter with Jesus Christ...our “grace moment”...
is to

- tell someone, anyone, as many as will listen
- invite them to meet Him
- bring them to Him

So the woman takes off...leaving behind her water pot.

She is not forgetful or negligent of a valuable household item...

she has learned of better water – living water

The water pot will still be needed so leaving it is a statement of
“I’m coming back!” to the Source of Living Water

Have you had a “drop everything” experience with the Lord...
in the Word, in prayer, in circumstances...
that you had to tell someone!

I “dropped everything” when I started reading God’s Word after
“I surrender”!

Back in her hometown she zealously and boldly bears witness of her encounter
with the Christ, and excitedly invites the men to come back with her
to meet Him

She bears witness to...the men, because the “good” women will have nothing to
do with her

She bears witness of...Jesus Christ

Had she gone to Bible College?

Had she been faithfully attending Bible studies?

Yet she had more than enough to witness of Jesus...her personal testimony

Her evidence of the Messiah: v25 and her life (known by all in town)

Her shame is gone

Her life has been changed by her encounter with Jesus...
God’s respect, love, grace

She is not boasting of her shame/sin, she is boasting of the Christ
(and His removal of her shame)

Such is a proper personal testimony

v30 They went...came unto Him:

The men who heard and believed the woman's simple, passionate testimony went out to Jacob's well to meet the Messiah themselves

The Samaritans had a...Messianic expectation, just like the Jews

As then, Messianic expectation permeates the world today:

- Barbara Walters: "We thought Barak Obama was the Messiah"

POTUS is on the record for telling Planned Parenthood and abortion doctors that they "are doing God's work."

And, "I want you to know that you've also got a president who's going to be right there with you, fighting every step of the way."

The god whose work is being done is the god of this world (2 Cor 4:3-4), the devil, a murderer from the beginning. POTUS opposes God Almighty and himself, is deceived and taken captive by the devil, is a servant of the devil that needs a personal encounter with Jesus Christ like the Samaritan woman at the well.

- Muslims (Shia/Iran in particular): the 12th Imam, and they are busy about the work to prepare the way for him...who, when he comes, will kill all Jews and Christians.
- Jews:
 - Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, a leading authority in mainstream Ultra-Orthodox Judaism, has been giving clear and unequivocal messages recently that the coming of the Messiah is imminent. He is urging Jews to make Aliyah as soon as possible. The Rabbi is talking about the Messiah "all the time."
 - The Temple Institute is dedicated to elevating public awareness in preparation for the building of the Third Temple.
 - But...the next temple in Jerusalem will be commissioned by the antichrist (John 5:43, Dan 9:27) and will be defiled by him (Matt 24:15). Jesus will destroy it when He returns. Then He will build God's Temple (Ezk 40-48)

Note: God has commissioned the building of 2 Temples, Solomon's and Zerubbael's, not Herod's "remodel" and not this "Third Temple"

- Christians (esp those who read/study the entire counsel of God vs "NT church")

The humanists are deceived...will fall at the feet of the counterfeit christ on earth
The Muslims are deceived...will fall at the feet of the counterfeit christ on earth
The Jews are deceived...will fall at the feet of the counterfeit christ on earth
The Christians known by God as the Bride of Christ...a mere remnant...
are not deceived and will meet the True Christ in the clouds

v31-34 Master, eat:

After “that Samaritan woman” left, the disciples encourage their Master to eat the food they brought Him from their shopping trip into town
Jesus tells them He has food of which they know nothing.
Again not asking Jesus anything, the disciples talk amongst themselves, wondering who brought Him food.
Jesus “clarifies” for them: “My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to finish His work.”

Jesus’ answer is

- correctional...a rebuke for their thinking
- instructional...He will now begin the work of changing their thinking

because He and His disciples are not on the same page, not like-minded

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Seed of the Woman,
the Lamb of God, the Savior

He is from above/heaven...His thinking is of things above/eternity

He has been sent on the Ultimate Mission Trip

- to do what the Father sent Him to do
- to speak the words the Father sent Him to speak
- to finish the work the Father sent Him to finish
 - Luke 2:49 to be about the Father’s business
 - Luke 19:10...to fulfill Ezk 34 (a very strong rebuke to the false shepherds of Israel)
 - Matt 5:17-18
 - Matt 22:36-40
 - John 19:30

The 5 disciples are from below/earth...their thinking is of things below/earthly

Whereas they have lofty hopes (Messianic kingdom), they have low thinking

Their minds are trapped on earth and on the things of earth...their minds must be changed, elevated

In about 3 years...John 17:18, Matt 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

The Father’s work of seeking and saving eternal souls continues to this very day

John 16:7-14

Luke 19:13b Occupy until I come

Matt 5:13-16 part and parcel with v10-12

If you are a child of God (Ch 1:12), you are to

- be about the Father's business
- think "highly"
- be "salty"

If you are not a child of God, you are a child of the devil and we plead with you to

- stop your low thinking
- hear the words of correction and instruction from Jesus Christ
- consider the works of Jesus Christ
- believe in Him, the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- be saved from the wrath of God that is to come upon the world

Jesus' correction and instruction of His 5 disciples continues

v35 Lift up your eyes:

What Jesus says here is indicative of His teaching "style": to illustrate His teaching point to the hearers using the things that were visibly around them

All around Jacob's Well were fields

Timestamp: early summer

The Fall harvest was celebrated with the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot...
the Feast of In-gathering

So Jesus instructs and corrects His disciples:

"Lift up your eyes, see the fields that are already to harvest."

Yet the fields were green, not ready for harvest

Grain, when ripe, turns from a green to a yellow or light color, indicating that it is time to reap it.

The physical harvest/in-gathering is a shadow of the spiritual harvest/
in-gathering

So when the disciples lifted up their eyes, they would have seen...
the Samaritans coming to hear the Messiah speak of God's
salvation

In a little over a week, Monica and I are being sent on a mission trip to preach the Gospel (build God's house vs houses for people) in the mountain villages of Honduras (most dangerous nation on earth)

It is zealously in both of our hearts to return soon to Egypt to impart a spiritual gift to our brethren there, co-laborers with us in God's work there
(we just need God's provision to go)

The entire world is a mission field in God's eyes...USA most definitely included!
Every child of God is planted in a mission field –
your home, neighborhood, workplace, school...jail/prison

After a sweet time of fellowship with Ken on Monday morning at Cracker Barrel,
a song was playing...
“If you want to throw a party in the middle of nowhere, I am out standing
in my field.”

We ARE in a field...are we “outstanding” doing the Father's work?

Lift up your eyes...see what God sees
Ch 3:16...

- Samaritans were “whosoever”
- Muslims are “whosoever”
- Mormons are “whosoever”
- Every religious person is a “whosoever”
- Every atheist, liberal humanist, Planned Parenthood-ist
is a “whosoever”

Do we see them as God sees them...eternal souls in danger of eternal punishment
unless they hear and respond to His Truth?

The Jews hated the Samaritans...God loved them
What we “feel” about Muslims etc is low thinking...God's love is not a
feeling, it is a choice to do something for the benefit of another,
even if he/she hates you and harms you

Rom 10:13-15 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?
and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they
preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the
feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings
of good things!

Lift up your eyes...

- see what God sees
- think like God thinks
- act like God acts...every “whosoever” in your field needs the love of
God

Back to the Lord's harvest illustration

v36-38 One soweth and another reapeth:

To continue the plain illustration standing in the midst of fields,
Jesus speaks to sowing and reaping

There is a division of labor in God's work of seeking and saving eternal souls:
some sow the Word of God, others reap the spiritual harvest,
but they rejoice together...because the increase belongs to God
Jesus tells His disciples that He sent them to reap where they did not sow

Who had previously sowed?

- The prophets
- John the Baptist
- The woman at the well

When is the harvest?
Here they come!

And the Lord knows every man's labor, whether sowing or reaping

Monica and I are fruit labored for (sowing or reaping) by born-again
friends and family, Floyd Strater, Chuck Smith, John Higgins

We have labored in the field of Ahwatukee for almost 16 years...
sowing and reaping
This room could be filled 10x with the people who have come and gone
thru this work of God

All were one of the 4 soils Jesus will teach of in the Parable of the Sower
(only one of which is any good)
Many have been offended by the Truth and moved on
Others were looking for something more social or entertaining than
preaching and teaching the entire counsel of God
Some have been led by the Holy Spirit to sow and reap in other fields

What is the fruit/harvest of our labors?
We will not see until we get to the Throne Room in Rev 4-5
And many of you here have shared in the labor...and will share in the
reward...we will rejoice together!

We are going to Honduras to sow or to reap...certainly to rejoice!
We will find out in heaven
But whatever, whoever, wherever, the Lord knows every man's labor
1 Cor 15:58

Back to the harvest there by Jacob's Well

v39 many...believed:

Did the woman give a deep theological dissertation on the Messiah?
Did she open up the understanding of anyone regarding the deep things of God?

The seed sowed by the woman was...Jesus Christ and her personal testimony of
her encounter with Him

And that was sufficient to move the Samaritans to believe!

Much to the astonishment of the 5 Jewish disciples!

Every child of God knows enough to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified...
the only question is will he/she open their mouth to speak/sow?

v40-42 tarry...many more believed:

Many believed...and they went to Jesus to beg Him to stay longer with them...
which He did for 2 days

As we will see, Jesus stays where He is welcomed, leaves where He is not

For 2 days Jesus sowed...and reaped – and many more believed,
much to the astonishment of His disciples

The Samaritans heard the words of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God

- Mark 1:14-15
- v26 (isolated in Samaria from the preconceived ideas in Jerusalem)
- the deepest and purest truth they have ever heard
- Rom 10:17

There were many “grace moments” those 2 days

- personal revelations
 - of God
 - of their sin
- undone, broken, crushed (Ps 51:17)
- loved, not condemned
- received God’s forgiveness, grace, love...by faith
- everything changed, never to be the same again

And all this would offend the Jews and be held against Him (John 8:48)

In these 2 days, Jesus would sow that would also be reaped several years

Acts 8:1-8, 14-17 when the Samaritan ministry is resumed

This was a very fruitful appointment

- Kingdom citizens – Samaritans!
- Jewish pre-conceived ideas about the Messiah and the salvation of God – shattered
- Seed sown for a future harvest

Lift up your eyes!

- Be not guilty of low thinking...Self, the world, things of the world
- Set aside all your pre-conceived religious and philosophical ideas and hear the plain words of Jesus
- See the field ripe for the harvest of eternal souls...in your field!
- Be zealous, bold...grateful...enough to open your mouth to speak of your personal encounter with Jesus Christ

Please stand

To the believer

1 Cor 3:2-9

Work!!!!

With a sense of urgency, driven by the love of Christ

Dreams this past few days

- Young men with Bibles but no knowledge of the Bible or of salvation; witnessed to them
- Impassioned confrontation with a pastor (and entourage) busy about the “entertainment business” vs the Father’s business

The Lord is getting His people ready – can you sense it?

To the backslider, complacent, lukewarm

Matt 13:20-22

What does the farmer expect when he plants seed in a field?

A harvest, fruit

What do you have to show for your personal encounter with Jesus Christ?

Will you be ashamed when He comes? (Wake up! Any moment now!)

To the lost

I had a close call on the freeway yesterday

Do you know the date of your last day on earth?

Then the wise thing to do is get right with the God Who does know!

Get ready to meet your Maker...

- on His terms (grace) vs yours (justice)
- based on His Word (unchanging eternal truth) vs your opinion

Rom 3:10, 23

Rom 6:23

John 5:24

Rom 10:9, 13

Luke 19:10

2 Cor 6:2

Prayer: Give us the unrestrained excitement of the Samaritan woman at the well to tell others about Jesus Christ