**John V**

**Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well**

**Review:**

Theme of John:

Jesus is the Son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him.

Jesus is revealed through is miracles and his statements about himself.

Last week: John 3 Jesus and Nicodemus. An “Insider” believes.

This week: John 4 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman. An outsider believes.

The interviews have a pattern:

Jesus makes an enigmatic statement which provokes thought

Confusion

Jesus explains the statement

Jesus identified

Nicodemus is the “open” well-educated and influential non-believer.

What does Jesus say to a very religious, highly educated and influential person?

Jn 3:3-5 Unless you are born again of the water and the spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

You need to undergo a spiritual rebirth—you need to start from scratch. You need to be baptized. Then you will be a spiritual infant.

Nicodemus has been spiritually blind.

The solution to spiritual blindness? Look to Jesus. (Numbers 21:7-9)

John 3:14-15 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”

Lifted up:

a. The snake in the desert by Moses.

b. Jesus on the cross.

c. Jesus raised from the dead.

d. Jesus lifted up (ascended) to heaven.

e. Us lifting Jesus up as we share our faith in him.

f. So we, too will be lifted up, as Jesus was lifted up.

To summarize: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

But we need to be transformed. We need to begin again. We need to be born again in baptism.

Or, as John the Baptist puts it in John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son (of God) has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

This week:

John 4 The Samaritan Woman at the Well: The outsider believes.

John 4:1-9

John 2:4 Jesus to his mom: My time has not yet come.

Jesus has been in Jerusalem and he is gaining and baptizing many disciples. (John 3:30 JTB: He must become greater; I must become less) It is getting too “hot” for him in Jerusalem.

Jesus’ time has not yet come so he leaves Jerusalem and returns to Galilee. He can go around, up the Jordan Valley (as most Galilean Jews do), or he can take the direct through Samaria.

Jesus arrives at Jacob’s Well, near Sychar in Samaria.

Jacob’s Well at Shechem: Gen 33:19, 48:22, Josh 24:32

Jacob buys a plot of land with a well where he is buried.

Also, Joseph, the father of Ephraim and Menassah is buried there. (Josh 24:32)

Ephraim was the chief tribe of the Northern Kingdom, so was very important to the Samaritans.

This place was especially important to Israel/Northern Kingdom of the Jews—the people who eventually became the Samaritans.

v. 6 It was about noon—not the normal time for women to come to the well for water. Why is this woman coming alone, and not sharing social time with the other women?

Hmmm….

Jesus wants water, but he has no way to get it (it is too deep) without a dipper, so he asks the woman.

Q: Do you think that Jesus knows what is about to happen with this woman? Is the Holy Spirit speaking to him as he sometimes does to us?

Jesus breaks deeply-ingrained social norms.

A Samaritan. v. 9 Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

To touch a Samaritan or to drink from one of their vessels would produce ceremonial uncleanness (not acc. to the Bible, but to the Pharisees)

An unmarried Samaritan woman.

A 1. “sinful” 2. unmarried 3. Samaritan 4. woman. Three strikes and you are out, but not to Jesus!

Jesus is a revolutionary. Breaking every racial, gender and religious barrier.

Who do you feel uncomfortable talking to? (old, young, Latino, white, wealthy, poor, etc.)

John 4:10-26

v. 10 Here is that “enigmatic statement!”

“living” water is water that is flowing, rather than still (like in a well!)

v. 11 Here is the “confused response.”

Where can you get living water here at this well? I am confused!

(How can I be born again of the water and the Spirit? Note the similarity)

Q: Where can we find living water? Where can we find the life-giving Spirit? In Christ!!! Jesus offers living water.

v. 12 Out of nerves or defensiveness, the Samaritan woman throws out a diversionary “religious” issue between Jews and Samaritans.

People do this. What about miraculous gifts? What about church on Saturday? What about giving blood or celebrating Halloween?

We need to do what Jesus did:

1. Respectfully and gently answer the question. And

2. Bring the conversation around to the heart of the matter—matters related to eternal life!!!

v. 14 The water I have to give produces eternal life!!! Jesus is offering eternal life!!!

John 7:37-39. Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit.

Who here wants eternal life? Where is it found? In Christ!

v. 15 Is she still confused or is she being sarcastic? Not sure. Probably sarcastic. She still does not believe.

v. 16-19 The third “miracle” of Jesus.

v. 19 (like Nathanael) Sir: I can see you are a prophet!

Q: How does Jesus feel about this woman? He has GREAT COMPASSION for her!!!!

Does she believe now? She is open, but not yet, so she throws out another religious controversy to take the attention away from her sin!!!

Samaritans (who only use the Pentateuch) worship at Mt. Gerizim, not at Jerusalem. This goes all the way back to 1, 2 Kings where in the Northern kingdom they worshipped on every high hill.

As before, Jesus:

1. Respectfully and gently answers the question. And

2. Brings the conversation around to the heart of the matter—matters related to eternal life!!!

v. 21-23 Woman, this is a non-issue when it comes to eternal life, but since you asked, you Samaritans are wrong and the Jews are right!!!

v. 21, 23 a time is coming… When Jesus is crucified and raised, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, setting in place the New Covenant, then this distinction will be null and void, because his kingdom is not of this world.

v. 24 But let’s stick to things related to eternal life. Let’s talk about the essential issues.

DO NOT let yourself be dragged into disputes over unimportant matters (how often to take the Lord’s Supper, miraculous gifts, age of the earth, nature of end-times…)

Let’s talk about spiritual matters. Worship will no longer involve physical things. Objects (ark, altar) and places (Jerusalem, Mt. Moriah) will no longer be important to worship. It will be spiritual.

Let’s talk about the truth. New worship will involve truth of the Bible but also true (ie genuine, from the heart) worship, rather than mere ritual.

Samaritan Woman: OK, we can all agree on this: God will save us through His Messiah.

v. 26. A total blow-away. “I who speak to you—I am he.”

BTW, essentially, Jesus said “I, I AM” Jesus claimed, not only to be the Messiah, but to be God!!!!! (Exodus 3:14, John 8:58)

Note: the first time Jesus told anyone that he was the Messiah or that he was God/Yaweh was to a Samaritan woman. Awesome!!!!

John 4:27-38 Now the disciples are confused!!! Why are you talking to her?

But not the Samaritan woman (v. 29) (although she was so flustered she left her water jar behind.) She now believes that Jesus is (probably?) the Messiah.

The Samaritan woman first saw Jesus as a thirsty man, then as a Jew, then as a Rabbi, then as a prophet (v, 19), and, finally, as the Messiah and Savior of the world.

Note, like Philip before her, she says, “Come and see.”

Have you done that yet? John is telling you how to share your faith.

v. 31-34 Are you like Jesus in this way? When we are having the time of our life, we literally lose the need to eat.

Q: What fills you up? What gets you excited? Studying the Bible with someone?

v. 35-38 White unto harvest. This is how we know the wheat is ready to harvest. No green left. Even during a pandemic? Yes!!!!!

Do not say, “When the pandemic ends (after 4 months), I will start sharing my faith again.”

This is humanistic thinking, as the normal time from sowing to harvest was 4 months.

v. 38 God has been working, even while we sleep. People are out there, ready to be reaped!! Like Jan’s new friend Lucy.

There are campus students out there right now who could be baptized in the next two weeks. Do you believe it? I do!!!

John 4:39-42 Many Samaritans (yes, Samaritans!) believe.

“This man is the savior of the world.” Again the theme of John. Who Jesus is revealed through his statement about himself and through his miracles.

The person you think will NEVER be open may very well be white for harvest.

Stages of belief:

1. thirsty man

2. Jewish man

3. Rabbi

4. Prophet

5. Messiah

6. Savior of the world.

Jesus is all these things.

Yes, and even the most estranged, most distant, most unlikely to believe will believe if they see Jesus. Let us help them to meet Jesus.