

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 26TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

JACOB'S WELL (JOHN 4:1-6) AVOIDING FURTHER FACTIONS

This will be the last time John mentions baptisms in his Gospel, but he points out that **Jesus was not the one performing the baptisms**. Instead, **it was His disciples performing the baptisms**.

- Jesus wanted to **avoid factions and pride from welling up in those he baptized** (1 Corinthians 1:14).

"HE LEFT JUDEA AND WENT AGAIN TO GALILEE."

There were **three possible routes on His journey**: west along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, east across the Jordan River up through Perea, or straight north through Samaria.

- Because of the deep-seated hatred and conflict with Samaritans, **the latter would not have been an option for Jews**.

WHY THE HATRED FOR SAMARITANS?

When the Israelites were taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 B.C., the lower classes of society would have been left in Samaria. The king of Assyria then sent Gentiles from other areas to inhabit the land, **intermarrying with the remaining Israelites, creating a mixture of Judaism and idolatry, a mixed race of Jew and Gentile**.

THE HATRED PERPETUATED

The Samaritans would have been despised by Jews initially for being a mixed race, but the animosity would only grow from there. The Samaritans attempted to stop walls being built around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 6:1-14), tried to place national worship on their temple, took in all outlaws of Judea, and rejected all writings of the prophets and all Jewish traditions.

"HE HAD TO TRAVEL THROUGH SAMARIA."

We see Jesus' divinity and humanity on display. As God, he had to go to Samaria, but in His humanity, He was "worn out from His journey."

- Jesus had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman, showing the reach of the gospel to all people from all backgrounds. Jesus would go from ministering to a moral Jewish man, to an immoral Samaritan woman.

DIVINE ENCOUNTER AT JACOB'S WELL

Jesus chose to rest at **Jacob's well** after everyone had gotten their water; He had an appointment with an outcast at an unusual hour under the heat of the day.

- Limited info is given about the well as it is only mentioned in John's Gospel, but this site has **a great history dating back to the patriarchs** (Genesis 33:19-20).

NEVER THIRST AGAIN (JOHN 4:7-26)

"GIVE ME A DRINK"

Because of tradition, a rabbi would not speak to a woman in public, and because of prejudice, a Jew would not request a favor from a Samaritan.

- **Jesus broke through the prejudices and did not allow any societal standard or religious tradition to stop Him from reaching a lost soul.**

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN ASKS, "WHY?"

Jesus responded to the Samaritan woman's question with a question. It was a question that made her curious about three things.

- His question made her curious **about the things of God** ("if you knew the gift of God"), **who Jesus is** ("who is saying to you"), and **what He could give her** ("he would give you living water").

JESUS IS GREATER THAN JACOB

In ancient times, they called a natural spring "living water" because it looked alive as it bubbled up from the ground. The woman possibly thought Jesus was offering another spring where she could draw water, so she asked if he was greater than Jacob.

- **He is!** Jacob provided a well, giving physical water to his family, but **Jesus will be the source that supplies spiritual water to His family**.

WE WILL NEVER THIRST

Everyone would continually return to the well to draw water to satisfy their natural thirst. Jesus offered "living water" to her and anyone who would drink so they would "**never thirst**."

- **This does not mean we take one sip and never thirst again, instead Jesus is the source that will never run dry so we can continually drink.**

THE WRONG RESPONSE

Her response was a logical one, but it was not one based on seeing her spiritual depravity. She essentially says, "Sure, if you want to make my life easier and more convenient, I'm in!"

- **Jesus does not offer to make our current life easier or more convenient. He offers us a new life, an eternal life!**

WE THIRST AND ARE NOT SATISFIED

In Scripture, drinking and thirst are typical pictures of **God's supply** and our **spiritual needs**.

- The reality is **we all thirst. We have a never-ending list of wants we long for and search for. We believe if we can obtain that one "thing," we will be satisfied; only to get it and still be empty.**

"GO GET YOUR HUSBAND"

Just like the Samaritan woman, we often do not see our spiritual needs. To get her to see her actual needs, Jesus asked questions that exposed her sin and revealed that He sees who we really are.

- Even as uncommon as her situation is today, it would have been unthinkable in first-century Samaria.

DISPUTE ABOUT THE LOCATION OF WORSHIP

The woman recognized that Jesus was a prophet based on His divine knowledge about her relationships, so she asked Him to correct a dispute about the location of worship.

- The Samaritans believed their temple on Mt. Gerazim was the correct place of worship, while the Jews believed it was the temple in Jerusalem.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Jesus confirmed that He was the Messiah they were awaiting and that the place of worship was irrelevant.

- **Worship in Spirit** is not through physical motions and activities but in a way that acknowledges God and His sovereignty. To **worship in truth** means honestly, biblically, and centered on Christ.

READY FOR HARVEST (JOHN 4:27-38)

THE DISCIPLES RETURN FROM TOWN

The disciples return from getting food from town as the conversation with the Samaritan woman comes to an end. Though they were surprised to find Jesus conversing with her, they did not interrupt.

- They had just spent time in town buying food from local Samaritans (John 4:9) and are learning to trust Jesus.

SHE LEFT IT ALL BEHIND

The Samaritan woman hurried into town, leaving her waterpot behind.

- She had received a new life. After receiving "living water," she paid no attention to the old ways of drawing water that never seemed to satisfy. **When new life is received, what use is there in the "old ways" of doing things?**

"AS YOU ARE GOING..."

The disciples offered food to Jesus, but He declined, saying, "**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.**"

- The disciples were sent to town to get food and do God's will (Matthew 28:16-20), but **they missed the opportunity to reach the Samaritans as they gathered food.**

"ONE SOWS AND ANOTHER REAPS"

Jesus used the crowd that was making their way toward them to communicate the idea of reaping and sowing (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

- The disciples were about to reap a harvest immediately. They would reap it from seeds that they did not sow. **We all have a part to play, in sowing and reaping, but God makes it grow!**

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD (JOHN 4:39-42)

HIDING WHO WE REALLY ARE

The Samaritan woman was amazed that Jesus knew the facts about who she was, but she was even more amazed that **He loved her though He knew all the facts**.

- We often become fearful and insecure about showing who we really are, thinking no one could love us if they really knew us. But **Jesus knows us and loves us!**

"THIS REALLY IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD."

Many Samaritans' faith started by believing what they heard from the woman (Romans 10:17). Believing what they heard, they invited Jesus to stay with them, and their faith quickly produced fruit.

- They realized what they witnessed in Samaria was bigger than them and their feud with the Jews. **Jesus had come to meet a woman at the well and save the World.**

COME DRINK FROM THE WELL

- **If you thirst, meet Jesus in the Word. This world is a barren desert that adds to the thirst in all of us. Where we drink from determines if we are satisfied.**
- **Jesus told His disciples it was for their benefit that He went away (John 16:7) because He was sending the Holy Spirit to provide internal bubbling joy (John 4:14).**