

## Ordinary People - Part 2

### A Woman of Samaria

#### A Witness - John 4:9-15

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

**13 Jesus answered,** "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

**15 The woman said to him,** "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

**John 4:28-30** - 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

**The Lord gave us an example in witnessing by the way He dealt with the woman of Samaria.**

***The woman received salvation and became an effective witness.***

- People who have been **redeemed** by the blood of the Lamb **should certainly tell it.**
- **No one is excluded from giving their testimony of the work of Jesus in their life.**
- **We should tell of the ability of the Lord to save the lost to all people everywhere.**

**Ordinary people, who have received an extraordinary, supernatural, experience should be eager to relate the good news to others.**

- **Every redeemed person has a story to tell!**
- The Lord of the harvest ***did not call us to be*** clever, spectacular, showy, or brilliant, but **He called us to be witnesses.**

**I. A SAMARITAN WOMAN - The Samaritans were a people of mixed races.**

- **Renegade Jewish remnants** intermarried with the Assyrians and others who had settled there.
- ***These heathen people were idolatrous,*** and they had very little ***comprehension of the God of Israel.***
- Intermingling of idolatry ***corrupted even their knowledge of the God of Israel*** by some Israelites like **Jeroboam**, who introduced the worship of golden calves to the Samaritans.
- **All these factors created the environment** into which the woman of Samaria was born,
- **And they contributed to her life of complete disarray.**

**She was a troubled and confused woman when she met Jesus** at a Samaritan well.

**\*\*\*Family Problems - The Samaritan woman's parents lived amid the heathen, Samaritan culture.**

**It is not likely** that **her parents observed the teaching** of Moses during her formative years.

**Whatever the background** of the woman of Samaria, ***her life was in utter turmoil.***

- **When Jesus came to her,** she had not suffered only one failed marriage, **but five**, and she was living with a sixth man, **whom Jesus correctly identified** as not being her husband.
- **Failed relationships tend to reproduce repeatedly** in a person's life.
- **Such was the experience** of the Samaritan woman.

**Satan is attacking families and homes in unprecedented fashion today.**

- He realizes that **if he can destroy these, he can destroy** the entire fabric of civilization.
- But people who ***follow the teachings of Scripture*** concerning family relationships inoculate themselves against the works of satanic forces.
- Moreover, they assure themselves of **God's blessings upon their home.**

**\*\*\*Moral Problems - Too often moral problems are at the root of family problems.**

**The marriage vow is sacred and must be upheld with sober respect.**

Two individuals taking *the marriage vows promise* to forsake all others and keep themselves *only unto each other* as long as they both shall live.

Of the *three avenues Satan uses* to tempt humanity, *he most often uses the lust of the flesh to attack a person's moral purity* –

**Galatians 5:16 - Walking in the Spirit** - I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

It is important and right for a couple to *keep themselves morally pure* for each other and *for the sake of their personal salvation*.

- *It is equally important that they remain pure for the sake of their children.*
- *The eternal destiny of children may be determined by what they are taught and by what is modeled before them in the home.*
- **Old-fashioned purity is still right.**

**Once the marriage agreement is made, it is made for life.**

**Matthew 19:8-9** - 8 Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

- From the beginning it was *never God's plan* or will *for people to divorce*

*Many moral issues today* threaten the *purity and integrity* of today's families.

Child molestation, incest, pornography, filthy movies, and ungodly television and music programs have inundated our society, *producing emotionally scarred people who have difficulty coping with life*.

As a result of *declining moral values* in general, people's ideas of what is morally acceptable are distorted.

**Paul warns church elders that some will distort the truth:**

**Acts 20:30** - Even from your own number men will arise *and distort the truth* in order to draw away disciples after them.

\*\*\*\***Religious Problems** - To live according to God's guiding principles for His people, **God's Word** is a strong deterrent to many family problems.

- **Jesus is not just *a way* to eternal life; He is *the way*!**
- ***The only access to God* is through His death, burial, and resurrection.**
- **The knowledge of this truth *brings with it a great responsibility to take the whole gospel to the whole world!***

**Mark 16:15** - He said to them, "**Go** into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

- **The people of God must tell the good news of Jesus Christ with *fervor, intensity, and great zeal.***

***The Bible warns against false prophets who appear harmless but are actually dangerous. (False Religion)***

**Matthew 7:15 - True and False Prophets** - "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

***The Samaritan woman also was blinded by false religion, and it caused her concern about where she should worship.***

**To her statement of confusion, Jesus answered, where she worshiped was not the point; rather how she worshiped was immeasurably important.**

**John 4:21-24** - 21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and **his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**"

- **Jesus** led the Samaritan woman to understand that **He was the Messiah** that the people of God were **expecting to come.**
- He realized that **resolving her religious error** would put her on the right path **to solving her moral and family problems** as well.

**II. A SEARCHING SAVIOR - *The supreme purpose of seeking the lost*** compelled the Lord to include a trip through Samaria.

With all the **resentment and animosity that existed** between the residents of Samaria and the Jews, **it was not a desirable place** to visit.

**Salvation was not designed** to remain ***only*** with the children of Abraham; **Jesus went to Samaria to plant the seeds of eternal life.**

- **Jesus went against accepted opinion of the day.** If the Lord could have been influenced by public opinion, there are many people who are in the kingdom of God who would have been excluded.

If this journey had been left to His disciples, it probably would never have happened.

- **Jesus went to the Woman of Samaria out of Concern.** It was a feeling of deep concern for this sinful woman that caused Jesus to make this trip through Samaria.

**First, He knew that she was lost.** This is still a matter of grave concern.

**The Lord himself declared:**

**John 3:5** - Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

**Second, Jesus had compassion not only for the Samaritan woman but also for all humanity.**

**The Holy Spirit will cause us to go to the lost and show concern for their eternal destiny.**

- *There is no one so lost that God will not save them.*
- There is **no such thing as being "just a little bit lost."**
- It is true that **some people have gone to greater depths of sin** than others, but **everyone outside of Jesus Christ is lost.**

**III. A SINCERE HEART** - By looking at her life one might **never suspect** that inwardly **she desired deeply to live right.**

**She had searched for fulfillment and satisfaction in the wrong places.**

**1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father** but is of the world.

**By gratifying the base desires that are born of fleshly lust,**

- **Her life had become empty.**
- **The hunger inside was growing with every wrong turn she made.**
- **In her desperation she resorted to going for water at the unlikely hour.**
- She would not be apt to **show her discontentment to others if she were the only one at the well**.

***Jesus Sensed the Woman's Sincerity.***

- By **probing** the depth of her spirit, Jesus discerned **her inward misery**.
- He also recognized that **she was aware** that **she had spiritual needs**.
- She was **sincerely displeased with her lifestyle**.
- **She longed to change** but **lacked the strength** to do so.

***Her inner conflict was as transparent to the Lord as ours was to Him.***

- Jesus observed **her disappointment in how her life had gone**.
- **In her condition** she was a **prime target** for the testimony of Jesus.

***Jesus Found Common ground with the Samaritan Woman — Water.***

- One of the **most essential ingredients** in sustaining physical life
- Became **the plateau for the meeting** of the minds between the witness and the hearer.

The woman's **need for water** was obvious as **she approached Jacob's well**.

In sharing with her His need for **natural water**, He also was able to establish a dialogue concerning **living water**.

***Jesus Made a Spiritual Application—Living Water.***

**The simple request by Jesus, "Give me to drink,"**

- **Unleashed a reply that revealed the pent-up hostility** this woman felt toward **the prejudice the Jews had toward Samaritans**.

**After she vented her feelings, Jesus countered** with a statement that aroused her curiosity.

**John 4:10** - 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Stung by *the inference that she was uninformed about whom she was talking with and the abilities He possessed, she countered with questions.*

- Was He greater than Jacob who gave them the well?
- He lacked the necessary bucket and rope to get the water.
- Made NO sense to her from where He would draw this "living water."

**IV. A SAVED SOUL** - *Little did the Samaritan woman realize what was in store for her as she made her trip to the well?*

- She was not expecting to meet Jesus....
- *Perhaps the farthest thing from her mind* was that she would receive a life-changing experience.
- To her, the trip was just one more necessary chore for sustaining her life, dissatisfying as it was.

*Her unexpected encounter with Jesus relieved her burdened soul of guilt and condemnation.* She met Jesus, and she would never be the same.

*The miracle of God's grace that produces repentance had begun its work in her heart.* The resentment against the Jews was broken.

- Her lifestyle that she had followed suddenly became sinful to her.
- And she experienced a change of heart.

The Samaritan Woman Had a Change of Mind - *The mindset of this woman* had been the result of prejudice that she had been taught by her forefathers.

- The fact that a Jewish man would speak to her was unthinkable.
- To further complicate matters, He offered her water that would satisfy her to the extent that she would never thirst again.
- He reached into her private life and revealed things that only God could know.

*She was so moved that she experienced guilt, remorse, and repentance.*

The Samaritan Woman Had a Change of Direction.

- All this was too much. She had come for a bucket of water,
- Not to be challenged about her way of life.

***Jesus revealed Himself to her as the Messiah and it caused a transformation in her life.***

- ***She felt an overwhelming desire to change the way she was living.***
- ***In genuine conversion there is first an inward cleansing.***
- Next comes the ***cleaning up of the outward*** man.
- ***Moral problems, drugs, alcohol, filthy language are results of inward problems that appear outwardly.***

***One must experience inward change first if the change is to be genuine!!!***

**The most effective way to witness is to tell your personal experience.**

- Every ***redeemed person*** has ***a story to tell.***
- We ***never know who*** may be ***longing to hear*** what the grace of God has done in us. ***How different it is since we know Jesus!***

**CLOSE: Jesus was compelled to journey through Samaria, an undesirable area for Jews. His disciples did not understand or agree with this decision.**

***The searching Savior knew that He would encounter a troubled woman.***

- This woman was ***perplexed*** with multiple problems.
- Mixed in her ***beliefs and morally wrong***, ***she desperately needed help.***
- To many ***she would hardly be worth the trouble.***

***Only the Lord knew the intense hunger the woman of Samaria felt and how desperately she needed to be reached.***

- But Jesus' approach ***disarmed her resistance.***
- Overwhelmed by ***His offer of living water***, ***she could not refuse.***

***As the light of revelation dawned in her darkened soul,***  
***She became excited over who Jesus was and His ability to uncover the wrong in her life.***

***This caused her to want to correct her life (repent).....***  
***And share the good news with others (witness)....***

- The fact that ***not everyone will accept our testimony*** does not change the fact that we need to witness.
- God has done great things in all our lives. ***Let's rejoice & share with others, for they need to receive it as much as we need to give it!!!!***