

In Spirit and In Truth- John 4

Joh 4:4 And He (*Jesus*) had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour (*noon*).

- Traveling between Judaea and Galilee, many Jews at that time bypassed Samaria to get to Galilee because of the Samaritans. Samaria was taken by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. as punishment from God because the Jews there worshipped idols (*2 King 18*). After the Jews “were deported to various parts of Assyria...colonists were sent to take their place” (*Jewish Encyclopedia*). “The colonists were soon after troubled by lions, which they regarded as a divine visitation due to their ignorance of the ‘manner of the god of the land.’ At their request an Israelitish priest was sent to them, who settled at Beth-el (*ib. xvii. 28*), with the result that a mixed form of religion was established, partly Israelitish and partly idolatrous.”

2Ki 17:28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the LORD. 29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived.

2Ki 17:41 So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children's children--as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

- The Samaritans were descendants of Israelites mixed with the Assyrians. The God of Heaven was their main God and their idols seemed to be secondary. There is no mention of Jacob's well in Genesis when Jacob bought the land but we know he would have dug it since there may have been no other source of water nearby. (When we buy houses don't we expect them to have plumbing? This city (*Shechem*) was later changed to Sychar.

Gen 33:18 And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. 19 And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent.

- (*v. 6*)- “wearied as He was from His journey”- shows His humanity. Here was God, in the form of man, “[sympathizing] with our weaknesses” (*Heb 4:14*).

Php 2:8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- The Son of God became the Son of Man (*Mat 8:20*), thus establishing a relationship with mankind, in order for the children of man to have “the right to become children of God” (*Jn 1:12*), thus establishing a relationship with Him. As heirs we have to

establish that relationship before we can claim that right just as we would in any inheritance.

Joh 4:7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."
8 (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

- Was Jesus too tired to go on or did He know what was about to happen? Probably both.

Joh 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

- As stated earlier about the Samaritans, to the understanding of the common Jew they were a "polluted" Jew. Samaritans knew that.

Joh 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

- Conversation evangelism. Jesus opened His discussion with getting her attention by asking her for a drink when she knew that, obviously to her He was a Jew, any other Jew would have snubbed her. That and the fact that she was a woman and He was a man, which was a sort of taboo because it could have had the "appearance of evil" (1 Thes 5:22) if someone else was to happen by. But He peaked her curiosity then by mentioning "living water" knowing she would have mistaken it for something physical that she might receive in order to never have to return to the well again.

Joh 4:11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do You get that living water? :12 Are You greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

- She took the 'bait'.

Joh 4:13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

- Jesus was speaking of spiritual things while the woman was thinking on a physical level.

1Co 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is **not able to understand them** because they are **spiritually discerned**.

- A person can be sustained physically on bread and water even though not forever. Later in Jn 6 Jesus spoke of the bread and water that can sustain all who partake of it for an eternity.

Joh 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He Who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." (*There will always be those who look for a free ride like those who wanted to make Jesus king after realizing He could feed them without having to work- Jn 6:15*) 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.

- Not that this Samaritan woman was un-teachable. But before Jesus went any further, His ability to discern her marital circumstance provoked her conscience to reveal her moral standing. Remember, Jesus was both God and man, having received the "[fullness] of the Holy Spirit" (Lk 4:1) after His baptism.

Joh 4:16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." (*Once again, removing any inkling of impropriety of His being alone with this woman of Samaria.*) 17 The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

- Notice how our Lord did not, right away, condemn this woman, even though she may have been an adulteress having been married so many times. Along with her possibly unscriptural divorces was the fact that she was probably shacking up with another man who was not her husband. Remember, Jesus was the one Who stated that the only "exception" for divorce was "fornication" (KJV) (*Gk.4202- harlotry [including adultery]*), or "sexual immorality" (ESV) and those who would marry her would also be "[committing] adultery" (Mat 19:9). Such gave her the idea that Jesus was a prophet. If Jesus said of John the Immerser that he was "more than a prophet" (Mat 11:9) what have that have made Him in comparison.

Joh 4:19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain (*Mt. Gerizim*), but You say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

- Steering the conversation away from her apparent sin and knowing Jesus to be a holy man, she changed the subject to the conflict that existed then between the Jews and Samaritans. Samaritans worshipped on Mt. Gerizim. Why did she understand Jerusalem to be the hub of all worship according to the Jews? Was she pressing Jesus to settle that argument?

"Manasseh, son of the high priest Joiada, and brother of the high priest Jonathan (Neh 12:10, Neh 12:11), married to the daughter of Sanballat, Persian governor of Samaria. Refusing to dissolve this marriage at the decree of the governor of Jerusalem, Manasseh was chased by Nehemiah from Jerusalem (Neh 13:28-

about 332 B.C.), and his father-in-law made him high priest of the Samaritans, and undertook to build for him the temple which afterwards crowned the summit of Mt. Gerizim.”
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- At that time there was a conflict that would soon be resolved.

Joh 4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

*“Salvation proceeded from the Jews. From them, according to the flesh, Christ came, and from them came also the prophets, apostles, and inspired writers who have given us that full knowledge of salvation which we possess to-day. We must take the words of Jesus as referring rather to the two religions (*Jewish vs. Samaritan*) than to the two peoples.”*
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Joh 4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.

- Jesus lived, died and resurrected under the O.T. and it wasn't until ten days after His ascension that “the hour”, of which He spoke of here, finally came. It came only after His death, burial and resurrection which made it possible for Him to become all “our peace, Who has made us both (*Jew & non-Jew; answering the Samaritan woman's question on which religion, pagan or true, was to be considered as from God.*) one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body (*the church*) through the cross (*Jn 10:8 “if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved”*), thereby killing the hostility. (*Eph 2:14-16*)”
- Not only did that hostility exist between the Jew and Gentile it existed between the Jew and Samaritans who were both Jew and Gentile mixed. That Old Law is what separated the Jew from the Gentile. Its only purpose was to make way for the Christ to establish His New one.

Gal 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons (*Gk.5207- children*) of God, through faith (*Gk.4102- reliance upon Christ for salvation*). **27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ (*where sheep and goat are divided- Mat 25:32*) have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one **in** Christ Jesus.

- The only separation that exists today is between the saved and the lost! The lost can be saved but first have to understand that...

Joh 4:24 God is Spirit (*Gk.4151- [divine] God*), and those who worship Him must worship in spirit (*4151- mental disposition*) and truth.”

- Man has been created “in the image of God” (*Gen 1:27*) and as such he is to have a “spiritual” such relationship with Him on His level of purity. Only with such we “shall see God” (*Mat 5:8*). There are many who worship God in spirit but not in truth and many who worship Him in truth but not in spirit. How can that be? There are those who are sincere but who play ‘follow their leaders’ “teaching as doctrines the commandments of man” (*Mat 15:9*). Thus they are sincerely lost as “liars” who teach what “is contrary to sound doctrine” (*1 Tim 1:10*). On the other hand, there are those who do teach truth “but their [hearts are] far from [Christ]” (*Mat 15:8*). Just teaching the truth and living by it as though it were a law of dos and don’ts, as a mind numbed robots, if a person’s ‘mental disposition’ is elsewhere, that won’t save either. God requires it all!

Mar 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts and feelings [mind]*) and with **all** your soul (*Gk.5590- animal [subconscious] sentient [capable of feeling- Webster] principle [Thayer- the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions]*) and with **all** your mind (*Gk.1271- understanding*) and with **all** your strength (*Gk.2479- ability*).³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself (*Eph 5:29* “for no one ever hated his own flesh”).¹ There is no other commandment greater than these."

Joh 4:25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He Who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

- How often have we read where Jesus told His followers not to reveal His being the Christ? In *Mat 16:20* “He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.” That was when they were among the Jews but here He was with a Samaritan who didn’t have the animosity the Jews had toward Him. To her, as a prophet though, Jesus wasn’t making any headway since He called her out on her immoral lifestyle. She seemed reluctant but showed her willingness to hear the One she felt hadn’t yet come. At that point He revealed Who He really was.

Joh 4:27 Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

- They were beginning to learn their lesson of not calling Jesus out on anything. The sting of His rebuke was making them a little gun-shy. But neither were they excited for Jesus that He may have spoken with a potential convert. They weren’t encouraging to Him. Every one of us need encouragement, don’t we? Don’t we think that even Jesus may have needed a little encouragement? Didn’t Jesus have feelings like we do. Wasn’t He “made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (*Heb 2:17*)? When we think of Jesus as only being God in the flesh as though He was never physically hungry or thirsty, or as if, as a man, He was above having feelings we forget that, even as God in the flesh, He needed encouragement. If we think otherwise we need to look no further than the agony He suffered before going to the cross.

Luk 22:41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to Him an angel from Heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- He so suffered the thought of physical pain, that would have been beyond understanding, to the point of actually sweating blood. In such a state of mind He was seeking another way in which His Father could see to it for Him to accomplish His goal to save mankind. In the end though, He was willing to suffer for the sake of His creation.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect (*even the thought of having to suffer*) has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Joh 4:28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to Him.

- She was so enamored with Jesus and His wisdom and understanding that she left her water jar. She was so excited that she couldn't wait to tell others that she met the very Christ they were taught would come, but was here in the flesh in their lifetime! How does her reaction to finding Him compare to our desire to tell others about the Christ we've found and by Whom we've been saved?

Joh 4:31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

- Physical food was not on His mind. Jesus must have been so excited over what was accomplished at the well that He had forgotten all about His fatigue and physical hunger. How many times have we been so excited about an opportunity to teach the lost that we forgot about a scheduled meal or about how tired we were? Have we ever excused an opportunity to reach out to a lost soul because of our physical hunger, or any other reason for that matter? How excited do we get when a new face comes in and we make them feel at home? Jesus' excitement was due to the seed He had planted in the Samaritan woman. It was seed that may have fallen on good soil (Mk 4:8). If all Jesus did was plant a seed, all we need is to do likewise.

1Co 3:5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. (*we've each been given an ability, a 'spiritual gift'*) 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God Who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

- Those who plant and those who water are laborers who work together toward the growth of “God’s building” the church. God doesn’t need any of us to do the work of evangelism. As Jesus told the Jews in Mat 3:9 “God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham”. But aren’t Christians “Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Gal 3:29)?

Joh 4:35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes (*seeing the Samaritans coming in the distance*), and see that the fields are white for harvest.

- These were people who were searching for answers after the seed was planted in the Samaritan woman. In Judea when a farmer sows his seed it germinates for four months until he can harvest a crop. But Jesus was saying, they didn’t have to wait that long because He saw the Samaritans from the woman’s village coming in the distance. The seed He planted in her was bringing a harvest that was ready to be reaped.

Joh 4:36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

- Jesus planted and His disciples were about to reap the benefit of the harvest. We aren’t the first to proclaim the message of the gospel. We are only entering into the labor of others who have labored before us, thus the great commission (Mat 28:19).

Joh 4:39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days.

- Jesus set aside the prejudice of His fellow Jews because in His eyes “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for [we] are all one in [Him]” (Gal 3:28) and because “God shows no partiality” (Act 10:34). Sometimes our prejudices can get in the way of sincerely reaching out to those who may be of a different race than we are, different social level or even different religion. Not that we are to accept any beliefs based on deceit but that there are so many opportunities if we will only look for them to bring the lost into a relationship with Jesus.

Joh 4:41 And many more believed because of His word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

- We can only lead people to the Lord through His word. Once they experience the truth for themselves it’s up to the soil which makes up their heart as to which way it will take them. Jesus didn’t convert every soul He came in contact with and neither will we. But as He kept on planting we should do likewise. That said:

If you don't have a relationship with **Christ**, whether you've been scripturally baptized into **Him** or not, you need to repent and make that happen! (*Many Christians don't have that relationship with Him because they aren't 'worshipping God in spirit', i.e., their mental state is always somewhere else during worship, or God doesn't have their all [heart, soul, mind and strength].*) Having been added to the church (*Act 2:41*) doesn't necessarily equate to being in a relationship with **Christ**.

#1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In **Him** you also, when you **heard the word of truth, the gospel** of your salvation, and believed in **Him**, were sealed with the promised **Holy Spirit**,

#2. Do you believe?

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on **Him** in **Whom** they have not believed? And how are they to **believe** in **Him** of **Whom** they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

#3. Have you repented?

Luk 15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in Heaven over **one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

#4. Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?

Mat 10:32 So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father Who is in Heaven,³³ but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in Heaven.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 Whoever believes **and** is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

1Pe 3:20 ... when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were **brought safely through water.**²¹ **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Joh 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

#7. Are you growing?

Eph 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into **Him Who** is the head, into **Christ**,

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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