

The Book of John - 23

Text: John 4:1-26

Introduction: We have been looking at the fourth chapter John. Here, we are presented with another witness - the woman of Sychar. As we have already noted, the Bible gives us: **The explanation** of the Lord's departure out of Judea toward Galilee through Samaria in **verses 1-3**. Then in **verses 3-6**, we see **the location**.

In **verses 7-26**, we discover **the _____** that takes place between the Lord Jesus Christ and this woman.

As we think about what transpires in this conversation, we are reminded that this woman could not ask for what she did not know. We also realize that John gives us specifically **the time** this took place. ("*...and it was about the sixth hour.*")

Ralph Gower made this observation in his book on Manner and Customs of the Bible, "The Samaritan Woman came at the sixth hour of the day (midday), despite the heat, because she knew there would be no other women at the well. Furthermore, because of the lifestyle she was following, she did not want to talk with them..."

Sin causes man to do irrational things.

Sin causes man to separate from others.

Sin certainly separates us from God.

Despite our sins, Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. What a tremendous display of our Lord's love for us---he does seek us out.

Isaiah 65:1 "*1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, Unto a nation that was not called by my name.*"

The conversation began with this woman in ordinary words, but the Lord turned the conversation to spiritual things. He begins by asking the woman for a drink:

John 4:7 "*7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.*"

It also shows us that this woman was moving through the motions of life, consumed with self. But the story is always the same, He found us. **Romans 3:11** "*11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*"

She thought perhaps, "No one will be at the well, for that is why I am going at this hour..."

Think again of the irony and contrast of these two encounters from **John 3 and 4**. The religious man encountered the Lord at night. The woman of questionable character in broad daylight. Both met **the Lord alone—personally**. AW Pink, in His commentary, stated this, The Lord Jesus Christ “shows her herself, and reveals Himself.” Read with me **verse 8**.

John 4:8 “8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)”

Later, the Lord would tell the disciples He was spiritually refreshed because He had “...*meat to eat the ye know not of.*” The spiritual sustenance of doing the will of God is explained in **verse 34** of this chapter. This woman replies by stating that this is unusual that a Jew would speak to her. So, she makes clear that she does know to whom she is speaking. She saw in him just as a Jew, nothing more in the beginning. It reminds us of the verse that states in **Isaiah 53:2** “2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, And as a root out of a dry ground: **He hath no form nor comeliness; And when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.**”

In **verse 10**, the Lord replied, “*If thou knewest the gift of God...*”

And **therein lies the problem**. “Man, neither knows his need nor the One who can minister to it. This woman is ignorant of the “*the gift of God...*” (AW Pink) The Lord gives this woman the figure of water to **tell her of the gift of God**. As with the example of being **born again** in **John chapter 4**, this example of living water was exactly what this woman needed to hear. Her response in **verse 11** speaks to our condition before Christ.

John 4:11 “11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast **nothing to draw with**, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?”

Her thoughts are **on earthly matters: wells and buckets**. And as it is again with you and me, we were concerned only with **the earthly things of this life**. In addition, she states, “...*thou hast nothing to draw with...*” This is the statement of **impossibility**. The Lord then helps this woman to understand the difference between what **He was stating** and what **she was thinking**.

John 4:13-14 states, “13 Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**”

And this tells us what we need to know, does it not? And that is this, that **the wells of this world are unsatisfying**. An eloquent Puritan stated this, “Here we labour, but receive no benefit; we sow many times, and reap not; we reap, and we do not enjoy; or

if we enjoy, we are still unsatisfied: it is with the anguish of spirit and circumstances of vexation. A great heap of riches makes neither our clothes more warm, our meat more nutritive, nor our beverages more palatable. It feeds the eye but ever fills it.”

Upon hearing this, she states, *“Give me this water...”* Her faith begins by evidenced in the follow-on statement, *“...that I thirst not...”* Upon this, the Lord turns to **her conscience and conviction.**

John 4:16 *“16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.”*

My friend, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit bring conviction. And it is godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation. **(II Corinthians 7:10)** This is none other than the work of the Holy Spirit who is to this day **(John 16:8-10):**

Reproving **the world of sin.**

Reproving **the world of righteousness.**

Reproving **the world of judgment.**

There is **no true deceiving God.** God has never been fooled. He has never been deceived. Upon the prompting of God’s question, which brings conviction, **this woman attempts to side-step the issue of her sinfulness.** She states, *“I have no husband...”* This was a flat denial of the exposure that just took place. This is the **typical reaction of man.** We see that **the Lord as the Light exposes.**

He states, *“...Thou hast well said, I have no husband.”* And then He continues in **verse 18**, *“For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”*

The Lord—God brought **light to her soul** and **exposed her sin** and **need for a Savior.** She must come this way **to receive the gift of God.** We all come to God in the same manner. In **Acts 20 verse 21**, **the Bible says**, *“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

She then exclaims, *“... Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.”* **(John 4:19)**

There is still a struggle going on, a wrestling. Notice what is mentioned next in our text, **John 4:20** *“20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”* She fell back to her previous prejudice... once again drawing the line in the sand. Not only did her conscience need to be awakened, but her understanding needed to be corrected. She had **much confusion that needed to be dealt with.** Could I say this, **there is much confusion today that must be dealt with.** How are we to handle this confusion? **With the Word of God.**