

I. INTRODUCTION

The pureblooded Jews despised the Samaritans whose Jewish ancestors had intermarried with foreigners about 700 years before, thus deviating culturally and religiously. In other words, the Samaritans were “mestizos” looked down upon by the Jews. Samaria lay between Judea and Galilee, and orthodox Jews took a longer detour across the Jordan River to avoid “contamination” with Samaritans.

II. BIBLE READINGS

John 4:1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.⁷ A woman of 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.⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.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.”¹¹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?¹² “Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,¹⁴ “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”¹⁵ The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”¹⁷ The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ “for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.²⁰ “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.²³ “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.²⁴ “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (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.”²⁷ And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,²⁹ “Come, see a Man who told

me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"³⁰ Then they went out of the city and came to Him. (NKJ) John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of His own word.⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."(NKJ)

III. DISCUSSION

A. Overcoming The Barriers (vv. 1-9)

1. What did Jesus do when He sat down at the well and the Samaritan woman came?
2. What barriers or prejudices did Jesus overcome by starting a conversation with her?
3. How do we apply Jesus' example in our lives?

B. The Living Water (vv. 10-20)

1. How did Jesus, step by step, cause the woman's attitude to change?
 1. Did the woman understand what Jesus meant, at this point? How did Jesus explain it to her? (vv. 13,14).
 2. Why did Jesus bring up the matter of husband? (v. 16)
 3. Why do you think this woman had 5 husbands? Is there any relationship between this fact and the need for the living water that Jesus was speaking of? (vv. 17-18)
 4. What is the significance of the woman's statement in verse 19?

C. Revealing His Identity (vv. 21-30)

1. Here Jesus explained what true worship is (vv. 21-23). What is the meaning of worshipping the Father "in spirit and in truth"?
2. The woman seemed well versed in religious matters (vv. 25-26). In verse 12 she mentioned Jacob; in verse 20 she discussed worship; in verse 25 she mentioned the Messiah (the Christ). Although all along Jesus had been speaking with her, she did not yet recognize Him as the Christ. What lesson can we learn from this?
3. It is strange for a woman of bad repute to go to the city and declare to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did" (vv. 28-30). Why did she do it?

D. Result Of The Woman's Testimony (vv. 39-42)

1. What was the result of the woman's testimony?
2. How do we apply verse 42 to ourselves? Many of us may believe in Jesus because of what our priests/pastors say, or because of what our Christian friends say. But we should proceed from there and meet Jesus personally. We should talk with Him ourselves, hear Him ourselves, accept Him as our Christ, our Savior and Lord.
3. Are we bearing witness to Christ? Have other people come to know Him through our witness?

IV. CONCLUSION

All of us thirst for the living water. Jesus Christ Himself is the living water. Our thirst will never be satisfied until we let Jesus come into our lives and transform us.