

Lighthouse Bible Church

November 11th, 2012

John 4: 1 – 26 Pt.#2

‘Jesus, the Living Water of Life’ *scripture reading John 8: 1 - 11*

Stand – Read – Pray

Last week we saw that Jesus had left Judea and headed for Galilee because He wanted to avoid a confrontation with the Pharisees over His growing popularity in ministry.

We also saw that another reason He wanted to leave was that He had a divine appointment to keep with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well in the city of Sychar. That is why it said in Verse 5 that **He needed to go through Samaria**, so that He could meet her.

The disciples had gone into the city to buy food and Jesus was alone at Jacob’s well when this Samaritan woman comes along at the hottest part of the day, alone, to draw water. This well, by the way was at least ½ mile from the city, so it would have been a chore to get water.

When she approaches Jesus at the well, Jesus said **give Me a drink**. And just in that statement alone He challenged all of what she knew stood between the Jews and Samaritans, all the prejudices, all of the hatred, all of the disdain, and He broke down the wall of division in showing love for her.

Something that she had not experienced because, as we saw before, she was an outcast from the Jews and from her own people because of her heritage and her lifestyle.

After she questions why He would talk with her and why He would share a drinking vessel with her, He then tells her that He is the **living water** of eternal life that if she partook, would never thirst again.

And as we saw last time, she said in Verse 15 **give me this water that I may not thirst nor come here to draw**. To her, it was all about this living water meeting her physical need and not understanding the spiritual implications of a thirsty soul needing the fountain of living water for eternal life that only Christ offers.

We left off by seeing that she needed two things before she could receive this living water. She needed to recognize her own spiritual condition as a sinner in need of a Savior and the only One who could save her from the penalty and consequences of her sin, Jesus Himself. So when she asks for this water and He knows her sin is keeping her from it, let's see what Jesus says starting in Verses 16 - 18

Verses 16 - 19: Jesus said to her Go, call your husband and come here. The woman answered and said 'I have no husband'. Jesus said to her 'you have well said, 'I have no husband'. For you have had five husbands and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly'.

Jesus knows the heart and life of this woman and He knows her greatest need is the living water of eternal life that only He can provide her. But before she can partake of that, she has to be confronted with her own sin, recognize her own sin and turn from it. No one ever receives salvation without repentance.

It is like what **Isaiah 55: 6 – 7** says **seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him and to our God for he will abundantly pardon.**

That is what she truly needed, a pardon from God but she needed to see herself as Christ sees her. One writer said “She was suddenly compelled to face herself and the looseness and immorality and total inadequacy of her life. There are two revelations in Christianity; the revelation of God and the revelation of ourselves. No man ever really sees himself until he sees himself in the presence of Christ; and then he is appalled at the sight. There is another way of putting it; Christianity begins with a sense of sin. It begins with the sudden realization that life as we are living it will not do”. *Barclay Pg 156 John*

And that is where this woman is at; she has a choice when Jesus says **go get your husband**; To shamefully acknowledge her sinful lifestyle or to cover it up and avoid it. She wasn't ready to openly confess it yet so she simply says **I have no husband**.

What she said was true, but in that statement she was trying to conceal her sin from Jesus. She was living with a man who is not her husband and she had been married 5 times before. Jesus knew that she was an immoral, adulteress and because He loves her, He reveals her sin to her so that she can acknowledge it and receive forgiveness for it.

He said **you have well said, ‘I have no husband’ for you have had five husbands and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.**

Jesus and His love for this woman, totally unmask her sin and turns her life inside out before her very eyes. And He does it, not to drive her to despair or self-condemnation, or in a judgmental way, although when someone sees their own sin for the first time as offending a holy God then that will happen but for a positive outcome. He does it to show her the cure for her sin. *Example of antidote for incurable disease*

Jesus is exposing the sinfulness of her life so that she is truly ready to receive the living water of life that He offered to her. Look at her response in Verse 19.

Verse 19: the woman said to Him ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet’. In saying that she is in essence saying ‘you are absolutely right about me. I have been married 5 times and I am living with a man right now; how do you know this; you must be a prophet’. She is, for the first time, acknowledging publically her sin and now if she is willing to repent of it and receive His forgiveness, is also ready to receive the living water of eternal life.

Notice that she is now getting the spiritual implications of what Jesus has been saying and in the question He had asked her to expose her sin. She acknowledges her sin, she has been convicted of her sin and her need for forgiveness and now she needs to know where to go to receive God’s grace and forgiveness. It causes her to move the conversation from the physical to the spiritual, just where Jesus wanted it to be. Look at Verse 20

Verse 20: Our fathers worshipped on this mountain and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.

She is in essence saying where do I find God to worship Him and receive this living water of eternal life. You see, they believed that you had to **go** or **be** in a certain place to worship God and to bring the animal sacrifice to atone for sin. In **Deuteronomy 12: 5** it says **you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place and there you shall go, there you shall take your burnt offerings...**

Well, for the Samaritans, she says **Our fathers worshipped on this mountain.** She is talking about Mt. Gerazim, not far from the city of Sychar. That was the holy place to worship God and to bring a sacrifice to God.

She also knew that the Jews said in **Jerusalem** was **the place where one ought to worship**. So she is somewhat confused on where she can go and approach God with her sin to receive His forgiveness, she want to approach God but she just doesn't know where to do it.

Isn't that like some people today? They come to the end of their rope, their life is falling apart and they say 'I need to go to church' or 'I need religion'. Listen, religion will not save you, going to church will not save you from your sin, only trusting Christ and receiving His forgiveness can do that.

That is why Satan works so much through religion today, isn't it? People run to religion for a quick fix to their problems and when it doesn't work, because it can't work, they become frustrated with religion and church altogether; and that is just where Satan wants them to be. They say 'I tried church' or 'I tried Jesus' or 'I tried religion and it didn't work'.

When someone realizes their sin, they don't need religion, they don't need ritual, they don't need a list of things to do to appease God, the don't need to recite so kind of formula, they need forgiveness that only Christ can offer. So notice what Jesus says in Verse 21.

Verse 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.

Jesus says it won't be on Mount Gerazim and it won't be in Jerusalem. Jesus is once again alluding to the fact that there will be no more need for animal sacrifices at any location because that system will be done away with shortly. In about 30 years the Romans would kill many Samaritans at Mt. Gerazim and go to Jerusalem and destroy the temple of God.

Jesus says, there is coming a day when you will seek God and be able to find Him anywhere, not in any particular place. That was the hope of **Zephaniah 2: 11** which said **people shall worship Him each one from his place.** **Malachi 1: 11** says **in every place incense shall be offered to My name and a pure offering for My name shall be great among the nations says the Lord of hosts.**

Jesus says **that hour is coming.** He says you don't need to go anywhere special to find God, not on Mt. Gerazim, nor on Mt. Zion nor in Jerusalem. You won't need to offer any more animal sacrifices in some special place because true worship finds God in every place. Then He adds in Verse 22

Verse 22: You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

Jesus says 'in answer to your question, the Jews are right. **We know what we worship** and you don't. The reason the Samaritans didn't know what they worshipped is because they only believed the first 5 books of the O.T. and nothing more. They did not have the full revealed word of God on what true worship was.

Not only that but He tells her that **salvation**, first of all came to the Jews first, which it did. Isn't that what Jesus said '**I have come to the lost sheep of the house of Israel**'. And secondly, salvation was offered through the Messiah, who was a Jew. He is not saying that salvation is only for the Jews, because it is for everyone, He is saying that it originated with the Jews and by a Jew.

What Jesus tells the Samaritan woman is that the place of worship is not the issue, but the way in which you worship is. It is no longer by ritual, or sacrifice or tradition but in a totally different way. Look at Verses 23 – 24

Verses 23 – 24: but the hour is coming and now is when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that the time is coming and is already here, because He's here, that true worship will be in **spirit and truth**. Not the Holy Spirit, but the spirit of man, the internal human spirit.

Jesus is saying that **true worship** is internal not external, not in the **rituals** or **ceremonies**, not in the animal **sacrifices**, not in the buildings made with hands, not in any of the **liturgy**, but in **spirit and truth**. In other words, worship originates in the heart that then expresses itself in truth.

What truth? The truth of the word of God. John will say later in **John 17: 17** **sanctify them by Your truth Your WORD is truth**. What Jesus is saying, even for us today, is that worship comes from the heart and it expresses itself through our obedience to the word. In other words, the more we worship from the heart and in conformity to His Word, the more acceptable to God our worship is.

Scripture tells us how to worship God and at the end of Verse 23 it says **the Father is seeking such to worship Him** that way. Worship is far more than what we do here. This is a vital part of our worship and we do what we do here because scripture gives us a pattern for what to do corporately together in our worship time. That is why we **read** the **scriptures**, that is why we **pray**, that is why we **sing**, that is why we take up an **offering**, that is why we **do communion** and **baptisms**. All of these things are biblical acts of true worship.

Then when you add the liturgy and ceremony and outward rituals and the burning of candles and incense and chanting of repetitive words and all the physical stuff that becomes more important than the internal, that Jesus says are no longer a part of true spiritual worship, you become a church like the Sardis church of **Revelation 3: 2** that **have a name that they are alive, but they are dead**. But it doesn't stop here.

Our worship continues when we walk out these doors. We continue to worship God from our hearts and from the truth of scripture as we worship with our families in what God calls us to do as husband and fathers and wives and mothers and children. We worship in spirit and truth by the way we live our lives at work, at home, in our dealings with other Christians and total strangers and unbelievers.

By how we **handle** our **finances**, by how we **communicate** with others, by how we **love** others, by how we **pray**, by the **thoughts** that we think. Every moment of our lives become an act of worship when we are focused on God from the heart and through His word.

Jesus tells her, listen, the time is coming that it will not matter where you are because you will be able to worship God anywhere as long as it is done from the heart and in accordance to the truth of His word. No more sacrifices or outward conformity to religious rules and regulations.

Because God is Spirit He is not confined to any building or place and for you to elevate one place above another is to commit an act of idolatry and bring insult to God who is everywhere. We meet in a place we call church but what truly is the church, not this building, not any building but us, we are the church because the Spirit of God dwells in us.

And if God is Spirit, then our worship is in spirit and truth, no longer any altar, or animal sacrifice or man-made thing, but approaching God from a heart of devotion to Him.

One writer said “genuine worship does not consist in coming to a certain place nor in going through a certain ritual or liturgy nor even in bringing certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, Himself immortal and invisible” *Barclary page 161 John*

By the way, do you remember one very special event that happen as Jesus died on the cross? The veil of the temple was, what, torn in two. In other words, through Jesus death and subsequent resurrection, we have access to the throne of God; to pray directly to Him and to worship Him.

So she says to Jesus in **Verse 25** **I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ, when He comes He will tell us all things.**

She is still a little confused on who He is and **where** and **what** and **who** she is to worship and **how** and so she tells Jesus ‘when the Messiah comes He will let me know all of this and will straighten things out for me. Then the incredible statement in Verse 26

Verse 26 **Jesus said to her ‘I who speak to you am He’**

He says ‘I who speak to you am’ the He is added, He is basically saying I am. Think about this and how she progresses in her understanding of who Jesus is:

In Verse 9 she sees Him just as any other Jew

Then in Verse 12 she sees Him as possibly greater than Jacob

Then in Verse 19 she sees Him as a prophet

And then in Verse 29 she sees Him for who He is, the Messiah

And as we shall see next time, look at how this encounter changed her life and changed an entire city. Verse 39 – 42. She became a believer and testified to others of who Christ is, she partook of the living water of eternal life, because it was a God ordained meeting between her and the Messiah, the Christ.

But, only after she experienced the love of Christ that pointed out her sin and her need for the living water of eternal life, to be born again that only Christ can offer and only when someone is willing to recognize their own sin, confess it openly, repent of it and put their faith and trust in Jesus alone for salvation. Have you?

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Isaiah 55: 6 – 7

Verse 20: Our fathers worshipped on this ...

Deuteronomy 12: 5

Verse 21: The hour is coming ...

Zephaniah 2: 11, Malachi 1: 11

Verses 22 – 24: For the Father is seeking such

John 17: 17, Revelation 3: 2

Verses 25 – 26: I who speak to you am *He*

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