

PALOMINO VALLEY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

February 25, 2024

John 4:25-38

Jesus Reveals His Identity

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Today

As we continue our study of the gospel of John, we find ourselves in chapter 4 where Jesus is in the midst of a conversation with a Samaritan woman who had come to Jacob's well to draw water.

From the beginning of chapter 4 we have learned that Jesus was on His way from Jerusalem to Galilee, and *had to pass through Samaria*. (Vs. 4)

The Jewish culture at the time dictated that devout Jewish men do not speak to women in public, and never, ever, were they to speak to a Samaritan woman, or even go through Samaria because they would be defiled.

But Jesus had to go through Samaria because He was obeying the will of His Father who sent Him into the world. His mission was to change the woman's thinking; to change her heart by revealing Himself as the long-awaited Messiah.

The Samaritan woman was a lowly peasant whose religion was a mixture of Judaism and idolatry. She was an immoral woman who had been married five times and presently lived with a man who was not her husband.

As Jesus confronted her with these things, she changed the subject to the subject of worship, and Jesus replied, *"You worship what you do not know."* (Vs. 22)

Jesus then explained to her, in Vs. 24 *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

This is where we left off last week, so let us continue as we read the first two verses of our text for this morning:

John 4:25-26 *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when the One comes, He will declare all things to us."*

Vs. 26 *Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

Go back to verse 19 for a moment, where the woman said to Jesus, *"Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."*

The Samaritan idea of Messiah was that of one like Moses who would return. They named him Assaief, meaning "he who brings back," or "he who returns."

They hold to that view because of God's promise to the Israelites through Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:15** *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."*

Their view of Messiah was an incomplete view, yet Jesus used their view as a beginning point to teach her and others who He really is.

Let's explore Jesus' reply to the woman in verse 26, *"I who speak to you am He."*

Seven times in the gospel of John, Jesus makes that statement about Himself, "I am."

"I am the bread of life," John. 6:35, "I am the light of the world" John 8:12, "I am the door of the sheep." John 10:7, "I am the good shepherd." John 10:11, "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:26, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6, "I am the true vine." John 15:1

Now, to reinforce what the apostle John wrote about Jesus in *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*, let's turn to *Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Here we see the preincarnate Christ directing Moses to prepare the Hebrew people for their release from slavery in Egypt—the same Jesus before He came into the world in the form of a man.

Prior to this time when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, the Israelites called God Elohim, or El Shaddai. Shaddai is an Accadian word meaning "mountain", "the God of the mountains, the God of invincible power.

God makes it clear to Moses that He is more than a title; that He is the eternal uncaused cause of all things; "I AM," "Yahweh," the self-sustaining One who has dominion over all creation. We find the word "LORD", all capitals, in the Old Testament as a substitute for Yahweh.

The name, Yahweh, represents the pronunciation of "YHWH", which is the Hebrew name revealed to Moses. Over time, pronunciation of this divine name of God in the synagogues was considered too sacred to be spoken, and was replaced in their worship by the Hebrew word Adonai, meaning "My Lord."

In the Greek translations of the Scriptures the word became "Kurios", or "Lord." Eventually, YHWH, through a mixture of languages in various translations, the pronunciation changed from Yahweh to JeHoVaH. We now read and pronounce the word "Jehovah."

However you pronounce God's name; "I AM THAT I AM," "Yahweh," "Adonai," "Jehovah," or "Lord," you are referring to the one true, living, self-existent, sovereign creator God who has full authority over all creation.

Let's bring this down to a personal level. This is why, as God revealed His nature and character to the apostle Paul, he quoted what God said to Moses in *Exodus 33:19* as he wrote in *Romans 9:15* "*I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.*"

This is why our sovereign God has full authority, full power, and the full right to choose who will be His people; who He chooses to be His children, who will enter His kingdom and live in His presence forever, and those who will not, and He owes us no explanation as to His sovereign choices.

This is why Paul wrote in *Ephesians 1:5* *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.*

And this is why Jesus had to go through Samaria to meet this immoral woman who worshiped what she did not know. God knew her before the foundation of the world, and He predestined her to be one of His children.

It is the same reason we are gathered here today, as believers in Jesus Christ, destined to be a citizen of God's new Jerusalem, living in glorified bodies and in His presence for all eternity.

As we rejoice and worship Him in spirit and truth, keep in mind that it is by the full authority and infinite power of I AM WHO I AM that keeps our salvation secure, and it is by the same authority and power that His promises never fail.

Continuing in our text---

Vs. 27 *At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?"*

Certainly His disciples were amazed; perplexed! They had previously been indoctrinated by Rabbinic teachings and He could not have done much worse than speak to a woman in public, let alone a Samaritan woman!

The Rabbis were entrenched in their works righteousness under the Law, and they had a saying that went something like this: "Each time a man prolongs converse with a woman he causes evil to himself, and desists from the Law, and in the end inherits Gehinnom." (Hell) Barclay, The Gospel of John, Vol. 1 pg. 162

Notice, His disciples were truly amazed, but they did not question or challenge Him because they already knew Him, who He was and what He was capable of.

Understand what Jesus was doing here. He was tearing down the barriers established by Rabbinical teachings, lifting women up to an equal social level with men.

Observe the status of women in non-Christian countries and compare them with countries where Christianity has taken hold. That same pattern follows Christianity wherever it is established and practiced, and women are protected and usually treated with honor and respect.

Vs. 28 *So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city, and said to the men,*

Vs. 29 *"Come, see the man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"*

The Samaritan woman leaves her waterpot behind. She is excited and hurries back to the city to tell of her experience with Jesus. Jesus forced her to see herself as He saw her. He confronted her with her sins, and she has had a change of heart.

This is what happened to us, isn't it? We spend much of our lives denying what and who we really are. But Jesus has the power to see into the darkest corners of our heart, and He confronts us with our sins.

King David realized this, and he wrote about his experience with God in **Psalm 139**. Let's read the first seven verses together:

Vs. 1 *O LORD, You have searched me and known me.*

Vs. 2 *You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.*

Vs. 3 *You scrutinize my path and my lying down,*

Vs. 4 *Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.*

Vs. 5 *You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.*

Vs. 6 *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

Vs. 7 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

Q. How many people think they can hide from God, or believe that God does not see their thoughts and behaviors?

Psalm 39 is a prayer to God from King David. It should be our prayer also. When you go home today, you will find it beneficial to take the time to read the entire psalm and meditate on it.

It is through the word of God, including the gospel, that we begin to see ourselves as God sees us and we feel that Godly sorrow that brings repentance, and we seek forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins.

Let's consider the next verse:

This outcast Samaritan woman went to Jacob's well during the heat of the day because she was scorned by those who lived in the city, so she avoided meeting others who would draw water from the well during the cool of the day.

She had no clue about what was about to happen in her life; that she had an appointment prearranged by the Father before the foundation of the world to meet the Son, Jesus the Lamb of God.

Now, she hurries back the city, leaving her waterpot and her scorn and her shame behind to tell of her experience with Jesus. Her heart is filled with the desire to tell her neighbors about what she found at the well.

Her excitement must have been very convincing when she said to her neighbors, *“Come and see a man who told me all the things I have done”* as she posed the question, *“this is not the Christ, is it?”*

This is what we are all to do. Once we discover Jesus Christ, we are to tell others.

John 4:30 *They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.*

In the following verses Jesus instructs His disciples (as well as all Christians) to do the same as the Samaritan woman is doing.

Vs. 31 *Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”*

Vs. 32 *But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”*

Vs. 33 *So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?”*

Vs. 34 *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*

Vs. 35 *“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.*

Vs. 36 *“Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.*

Vs. 37 *“For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’*

Vs. 38 *“I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”*

Jesus’ disciples were worried about Jesus needing food to eat, but Jesus’ reply was not what they expected. Yet, it is a lesson for all of us.

First, Jesus states that He came to do the will of the Father. He repeatedly says this throughout the gospel of John. His only purpose is to do the will of His Father.

How often, as Christians, do we follow our own will because of pride or stubbornness, or perhaps because we do not understand what our Father's will is? Or—perhaps we because we have not separated ourselves from all the temptations of the world?

We struggle with these things, yet we are called to follow Jesus Christ and to obey His commands.

Next, Jesus said to look up and look at the fields (the world) because it is time to sow and to reap. Jesus sowed the seed on the cross; the power of God's love, mercy, and grace in the full payment of our sins.

Today we also sow the seeds of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of us sow and others reap. There are times when we may never see the harvest of what we sow because others will reap that harvest, but there will be a time when we will all rejoice together.

There are times when God's people fail to sow because they fear rejection. Many will reject the message of the gospel because they love the world and they do not want to hear the truth about God and themselves.

But we must not fear rejection because God has called us to sow His Word, and He gives the courage and strength to do that.

This is God's will for us, and our peace and our strength come not from ourselves, but in pursuing the will of God through Jesus Christ. Amen!

Let us pray---

Worship

Benediction: ***Psalm 25:4-5*** *Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day. Amen!*

