

## **Pt 20 Woman at the Well Part 1 – John 4:1-15**

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church [www.pbcknox.com](http://www.pbcknox.com)

### **John 4:1-15**

- 1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,
- 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)
- 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.
- 4 And he must needs go through Samaria.
- 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
- 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.
- 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.**
- 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)
- 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
- 10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**
- 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?
- 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?
- 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.**
- 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

We finished chapter 3 last Sunday by looking at 5 reasons Christ was greater than John the Baptist, but also greater than everyone and everything.

1. Christ is greater because He comes from Heaven.
2. Christ is greater because He has first-hand knowledge.
3. Christ is greater because His testimony always agrees with God's.
4. Christ is greater because he receives the full Spirit of God, and it is not limited.
5. Christ is greater because God has made Him Sovereign over all.

Starting in Chapter 2 of John, we read that Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover. It was in Jerusalem that he cleansed the Temple by running off the money changers and animal sellers. It was also in Jerusalem that Nicodemus came to him in the night concerned about whether or not he would see the Kingdom of Heaven.

Then after that Jesus stayed in the area of Judea where he and his disciples went about preaching, teaching, and baptizing believers, and this is where Chapter 4 picks up from.

1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

A couple of weeks ago when we were studying in Chapter 3 we read:

**John 3:25-26** Then there arose a question between *some* of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him.

John's followers seemed to be concerned that Jesus was baptizing more people than John was. Again, as the Bible tells us, it wasn't Jesus who was performing the actual baptisms, it was his disciples that were doing it.

While it was concerning to John's disciples that Jesus was gaining such a large following, it was more concerning to the Jews. Yes, John's disciples were probably mostly Jewish but the Bible made a distinction between his disciples and the Jews.

The "Jews" mentioned would be those mentioned in **John 1:19** And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? It also would have been Pharisees and Sadducees mentioned in **Matthew 3:7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

These Jews were not following John as disciples, they were spying on his ministry and trying to find a problem with it. They hated John the Baptist, but they hated Jesus even more because he has been declared to be the Jewish Messiah.

These Jews are also the reason Jesus had to leave Judea and go back to Galilee. He knew if he stayed around Judea much longer that the pressure would intensify, and the Jews would try to have him killed and it was not yet his time.

### **4 And he must needs go through Samaria.**

There were 3 different routes that our Lord could have taken to get to Galilee, but he said he had to go through Samaria. While it was physically the shortest route, that's not why he went that way.

The Jews would normally walk 100 miles out of their way to avoid the Samaritans. To the Jew's the Samaritans were low down and worthless dogs. They were a mixed and mingled bunch of ungodly people that came out of the Northern Kingdom when they were left there by the Assyrians. The Babylonians invaded the Northern Kingdom and they intermarried with the Northern Jewish tribes that were left behind and that is where the Samaritans came from. They were despised by the Jews in the Southern Kingdom and they despised them back.

In those days, if you wanted to insult a Jew you would call them a Samaritan. It was like a bad word. That's how the Pharisees used it when they were railing against Jesus in **John 8:48** Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? It would be like someone saying I was a Democrat, and had a devil. So, for Jesus to purposely travel through Samaria was really scandalous.

But Jesus had a divine appointment that he had to keep. This appointment was with a nothing, nobody, low-down, worthless, rejected, sin-filled, Samaritan woman that had no clue she had a divine appointment.

Aren't you glad that Jesus wasn't concerned with what people thought? He was only concerned with what the Heavenly Father thought. And, of course, unknowing to the disciples, Jesus was following the will of the Father, that's why he **must needs go through Samaria.**

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

In Jewish time the sixth hour would be 12:00 noon. He has been walking in the sand for 35-miles and he is weary.

Let me pause for a moment and say praise God that Jesus was so much God that he could save the world, but he was so much man that he grew weary from traveling!

A few years ago I received an email from a Muslim man that had listened to one of my sermons about Jesus and he was trying to convince me that I was serving a false God. He said there was no way that Jesus was God because God could not get hungry, thirsty, or weak. May I say to you today, it is because he was all those things that we can be assured that he is for real! God robed himself in flesh and became a man, a humble servant and made himself as low as we are so that we could be saved. The Muslims cannot accept that. The Jehovah's witnesses cannot accept that, and neither can any of the other false religions. But the truth is, Jesus is indeed God and Jesus got weary, hungry, and thirsty.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, *Give me to drink.* 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, *How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*

The sixth hour is the lunch time hour, 12:00 noon. The disciples kept traveling on ahead into the city to find a Chick-Fil-A for lunch. It was not the normal time that women would come to draw water. All of the other women would come later on in the evening hours during the cool of the day to draw water. Since this woman is all alone, we can only assume that she came early in the hottest part of the day to avoid being around the other women. She was probably not very popular around town with the ladies considering who she was. We find out further down in the Scripture that she had 5 husbands, so she was probably known as the homewrecker or the town floosy.

It is also very likely that this woman had just passed by the group of disciples on the road as she headed toward the well. She probably kept a far distance between them and herself. She's probably wondering what in the world all these Jews were doing in Samaria. Then, she gets to the well and of all things, there is another Jew sitting by the well. She's probably thinking, "well this just ain't my day." But little does she know that this is in fact "her day."

Jesus asks her to give him a drink.

Wow, talk about tension! First of all, it was scandalous that a Jewish man would speak to a woman in the first place, let alone a Samaritan woman. So right away this is a very uncomfortable situation. And, it looks like this Samaritan woman is ready to go a few rounds with Jesus and immediately lashes out at him.

*How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*

Again, the culture that they lived in was highly unusual. John adds a commentary to the story by reminding us that the Jews have NO dealings with the Samaritans!

Look at how Jesus handles a very uncomfortable situation:

10 Jesus answered and said unto her; *If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

Okay, that definitely was not the response she was expecting. This was no doubt one of the most bizarre things anyone had ever said to her. She's probably thinking this Jew must be out of his mind. He's been without water for way too long.

And again, she lashes out at him: 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? 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?"*

In other words, "***you babbling idiot. This well is 100 feet deep and has 15 feet of water in it. Who do you think you are? Do you think you are greater than our father Jacob?***" – It is interesting that this sinner woman knows her Jewish history quite well.

But Jesus isn't going to let her attitude stop him. I'm glad that our Lord is a patient God and is not like I am. It would have been about right then that I would have jumped up and said, "***you know what lady? POW! To the moon!***" Aren't you glad that our Lord is patient with us? He sees this poor lady needs help and she doesn't even know it.

She needs to be broken. She's just like we are; before we can come to Jesus, we have to be broken. We cannot approach Him with a proud and haughty heart. We have to realize that we are a rotten filthy sinner in need of a Savior.

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. 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

The way I'm reading this, her comment was a sarcastic comment. Everything that Jesus has said to her so far has been unbelievable and now it appears she is just going along with him and in a condescending voice says, "*Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*" She's not been broken yet and is only thinking in the physical sense, not the spiritual sense and probably assumes Jesus is just out of his mind. Maybe he has escaped from the Jewish Looney Farm.

We are not going to have time to cover the rest of this today so we will have to pick back up next time. But, in the next few verses we are going to see this woman as she has her will and her heart broken into a million pieces. As the Lord ever so gracefully explains her great need.