

SUNDAY MORNING 4 July 2021
The Samaritan Woman - Living Water

John 4:1-6

The Pharisees became very uncomfortable with Jesus' teaching and so He decided to go to Galilee instead. He chooses to travel through Samaria.

Normally, the Jews did not travel through Samaria.

In 975 BC, just after King Solomon's death, God's people split in two. Jeroboam one of Solomon's confidants is declared king of Israel. They made Shechem, in Samaria, their capital.

At Bethel and Dan he made two golden calves and built temples there.

Rehoboam the rightful king remained in Jerusalem with only the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The people who remain are called Judah - Jews.

All the kings of Israel in Samaria were disobedient to God. When the Assyrians, and later the Egyptians and even later the king of Babylon took over the land, many of the 10 tribes fled from Samaria, "the lost tribes of Israel."

The Assyrians purposely came to inhabit Samaria and intermarried with the remaining Jews. They developed their own version of Judaism.

They only believe in the first 5 books of the Bible and worshiped on Mount Gerizim.

The Jews considered Samaritans unclean and that you should not come near them.

Jesus travels through Samaria and rests at Cigar, where Jacob dug a well centuries ago.

Jesus is fully human like you and me, became tired and thirsty. He sits there waiting for his disciples who have entered the town to fetch food.

John 4:7-9 and John 4:10-14

Living water

- Gift of God - John 4:10a
- It is living water - John 4:10b - Ask for Living Water. Then God gives living water.
- If you drink you will never thirst again - John 4: 14a - God is the answer. He gives the living water, which can fill the "Godshaped Vacuum" inside you.
- The water that God gives becomes a fountain - John 4: 14b - The water that God gives is His Spirit, the helper. - John 7: 37-39
- God's water gives eternal life - John 4: 14b - Receiving the living water from God means turning your back on the world and sin.

We cannot live one foot in the church and one foot in the world. That's how this woman lived. She had 5 husbands and now just lives with a man, yet she wants to worship God in the right way and in the right place.

"Sex, money and power," might maybe quench our thirst for a short while.

If you surrender to Jesus' living water, which gives eternal life, the things of the world will become more and more unsatisfactory. It can not comfort you in sadness or pain. It takes away your worries for a short time.

But God, is the God of Salvation, Joy and Peace.

The woman knows Jesus is a prophet, all she can do now is ask. Jesus knows everything about her. The woman is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. We need to step out like that woman anew from half-hearted worship of God into full surrender.

John 4: 21-26 **True Worshipers**

John 4:23

What does Jesus imply when He speaks of true worshipers? That there are untrue worshipers who also “worship” God.

There are and will always be people who want to worship God in their own way. Maybe their dogma or as their parents did.

Worship is not the way you sing or praise and worship. It is with what attitude in your heart you think about God and deal with Him.

To live in obedience, reverence and respect, a holy, acceptable life before Him not in your own way.

What does the worship of true worshipers look like then?

Spirit and in truth

Worship in the Spirit does not mean being in some kind of rapture.

- It means allowing the Holy Spirit to get rid of every bit of sin and iniquity in our lives.
- It means being serious about getting to know God better.
- It means being more obedient to God and His Word.

Jesus says those who thirst for living water and ask for it will not only get living spiritual water, the Holy Spirit, but they will also worship God in Spirit and in truth, the true / true worshipers. True

Alethinous

that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine

If you bear the name of a child of God, you must match the name of a Christian in every way. Christian is not a collective name for a group of religions that believe in something about Christ. It's all or nothing. Christians must show that they worship Christ in Spirit and in Truth.

The danger is that we may have a man-made worship relationship with God. Like this woman, part of the sinful the world and searching for God.

- The danger is that we can worship God from the flesh. It can be very easy for me to worship God because it makes me feel good.
- The danger is that I may worship God because it is the right thing to do.
- The danger is that I may think when I am deeply moved I am engaged in true worship.

God says I am looking for much more. God is Spirit, and therefore He gives us His Holy Spirit to make true worship possible. Jesus says that God seeks an intimate worship relationship and it must take place in Spirit and in truth — His Word.

Therefore, one of the most important things to die for is the flesh.

Romans 8: 13-16

In order to truly worship God in Spirit and in Truth, you and I must place the sinful nature under the control of the Spirit and then we will live. And it is the Holy Spirit who helps us, the Spirit of Truth, who must determine our behaviour.

And then the place does not matter, but more your mindset. You can worship God under a tree, by the sea, in a cathedral, in your bed, on your porch, in a church, your attitude is what counts.

Jesus says none of the Jews' or the Samaritan's places of worship will remain standing. In 70 AD the temple was destroyed and never rebuilt, and in 117 AD the Samaritan places of worship were levelled with the ground.

Where is the temple of God now?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Why do you worship God?

Out of fear, out of habit, because it's the right thing to do, my parents taught me so, I grew up so.

Why and how do you worship God? - Learn to worship God just because He is God. He deserves our obedience and dedication.

John 4:25-26

"I talking to you AM." Jaweh means "I AM." Worship from Moses' time.

The incarnate God of the Bible stands before this woman.

Everyone is equal they need Jesus' salvation and if they accept it, they are all equal before God, His children.

She was the first missionary among the Samaritans. Later, Jesus sends His disciples as His witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

John 4: 28-29

She could not remain silent streams of living water flowed from within her.

John 4: 39-42

Nicodemus was a scribe, a Pharisee, and a member of the Jewish Council. - Jesus tells him that people need to be born again. God loves the world so much, that He gave His only begotten Son Jesus as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that those who believe in Him will never be lost.

Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman. Jews do not talk to Samaritans, much less to a woman. No testimony from a woman is accepted.

She is a woman with a reputation. A searching woman, who is thirsty for the truth and Jesus' reaction, worship God in Spirit and Truth.

Jesus promised. Those who ask will receive the living water and then they will worship Him as true worshipers in Spirit and Truth, anywhere. Always!

Have you asked? Not yet? Just ask now.