

# Reaching Souls from Samaria to Cana

## *John 4:1-54*

- I. CHRIST'S TRIP THROUGH SAMARIA (John 4:1-6)
  - A. Comparison of the Witness of Christ in John 3 and 4
    1. A named man (John 3:1) and an unnamed woman (John 4:7)
    2. A ruler (John 3:1) and a woman of lowly means (John 4:7)
    3. A favored Jew (John 3:1) and a despised Samaritan (John 4:9)
    4. One of high reputation (John 3:1) and an outcast (John 4:18)
    5. One who sought Christ (John 3:2) and one who was sought by Christ (John 4:4; Isaiah 65:1)
    6. One who came by night (John 3:2) and one who came at midday (John 4:6)
    7. One who is self-righteous and told he must be born again (John 3:3) and one who knows she is a sinner and is told of the gift of God (John 4:10)
  - B. The Purpose of His Departure (John 4:1-2)
    1. Jesus was baptizing more disciples than John (John 4:1).
    2. The Pharisees heard of His success (John 4:1).
    3. Note: though Jesus did not do the baptizing (John 4:2)
    4. Comments
      - a. Those being baptized were disciples before they were baptized; they were not made disciples by being baptized.
      - b. Baptism does not save because Jesus is the Saviour of men (Luke 19:10; but He did not baptize men.
      - c. Compare this with the testimony of the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:15; 1:14-15).
  - C. The Path of His Journey (John 4:3-4)
    1. From Judaea to Galilee (John 4:3)
    2. Requiring a trip through Samaria (John 4:4)
      - a. Though orthodox Jews would sometimes bypass the city because of its perversion of doctrine
      - b. Though Jesus told His own disciples to avoid the cities of the Samaritans (Matthew 10:5-6)
    3. The "musts" of the life of Christ
      - a. He must be about His Father's business (Luke 2:49).
      - b. He must preach the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43).

# The Gospel of John | Reaching Souls from Samaria to Cana

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- c. He must increase (John 3:30).
- d. He must work the works of Him that sent Him (John 9:4).
- e. He must needs go through Samaria (John 4:4).
- f. He must abide at the house of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5).
- g. He must walk today and tomorrow (Luke 13:33).
- h. He must suffer many things (Mark 8:31; Mark 9:12; Luke 9:22; Luke 17:25).
- i. He must be killed (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22; Luke 24:7; John 3:14; John 12:34).
- j. He must rise again the third day (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22; Luke 24:7; John 20:9).
- k. The scriptures must be fulfilled (Mark 14:49; Luke 22:37; Luke 24:44).
- l. He must bring the other sheep (John 10:16).

## D. The Place of His Resting (John 4:5-6)

- 1. The context (John 4:5-6a)
  - a. A city of Samaria called Sychar
  - b. Near land given to Joseph by Jacob (Genesis 48:21-22)
    - 1) Possessed by Jacob
    - 2) Presented to Joseph
    - 3) A picture of salvation and of the victorious Christian life
  - c. At the site of Jacob's well
- 2. The occasion (Luke 4:6b)
  - a. Jesus resting
    - 1) Wearied with His journey – God never gets weary (Isaiah 40:28), but Jesus in His humanity became weary.
    - 2) The disciples gone to town for food (John 4:8)
    - 3) Jesus sat at the well; He will use His surroundings and the occasion of the woman coming for water as the beginning point for His witness to her. Note: a great study is to be found in all the events in the Bible connected to wells.
  - b. About the sixth hour
    - 1) If Roman time, this would be about six in the morning.
    - 2) Probably Jewish time, which would put the time around noon.
    - 3) This would be when the day was hot and not the normal time of coming for water; the Samaritan woman was evidently an outcast among her own and especially from the women (even when she spread the word of Christ, she went to the men – John 4:28). Therefore, she was coming when the others were not there.
- 3. The Samaritans
  - a. Partial Jews who were the result of intermarriage of the ten tribes with foreign races after the captivity of Israel (2Kings 17:24-41)

# The Gospel of John | Reaching Souls from Samaria to Cana

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- b. Claimed that Mt. Gerizim was the true sanctuary (John 4:19-22; Deuteronomy 11:29)
- c. Accepted only the Pentateuch as scripture
- d. Not recognized by the Jewish purists (John 4:9)

## II. CHRIST'S TESTIMONY TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN (John 4:7-26)

### A. His Encounter with the Woman (John 4:7-9)

- 1. The opportunity (John 4:7-8)
  - a. Christ and the woman at the well while the disciples were gone
  - b. The importance of seeking, recognizing and using doors of opportunity for witnessing (Colossians 4:3-4; Revelation 3:8)
- 2. The request (John 4:7), "Give me to drink."
  - a. Connected to the place and occasion
  - b. Creating a question in the mind of the woman
  - c. Leading to the subject of salvation
- 3. The confusion (John 4:9)
  - a. He was a Jew.
  - b. He spoke to a woman.
  - c. He made request of a Samaritan.

### B. His Exposition on the Water of Life (John 4:10-14)

- 1. The gift of God (John 4:10)
- 2. The gift to those who ask (John 4:10; Isaiah 55:1; Acts 8:20)
- 3. The gift of Jesus Christ (John 4:10-12; Romans 5:15)
- 4. The gift of everlasting life (John 4:13-14; Revelation 22:17)

### C. His Examination of her Heart (John 4:15-19)

- 1. Her pining (John 4:15); there must be something better than this.
- 2. Her problem (John 4:16-18); her sinful condition kept her from the water of life.
- 3. Her perception (John 4:19); that Christ was a prophet

### D. The Explanation of True Worship (John 4:20-24)

- 1. The meaning of worship
  - a. The word *worship* comes from *worth+ship*. It means to declare the worthiness of (Revelation 5:9-12).
  - b. Therefore, worship is not limited to a place or the performance of a ceremony. Rather, it is an inward attitude of reverence and exaltation expressed by an outward act of praise (Psalm 29:2).

# The Gospel of John | Reaching Souls from Samaria to Cana

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2. The place of worship (John 4:20-21)
    - a. Not Mount Gerizim
    - b. Soon not to be Jerusalem
    - c. But wherever God's people meet with Him (Matthew 18:20)
  3. The character of true worship (John 4:22-24; Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31)
    - a. Sane (John 4:22) – “we know what we worship” (1 Corinthians 14:14-15, 26-33; Colossians 3:16).
    - b. Spiritual (John 4:24) – “in spirit” (Philippians 3:3)
    - c. Sincere (John 4:24) – “in truth”
      - 1) Matching our deeds (1John 3:18)
      - 2) Without hypocrisy (Philippians 1:18)
      - 3) Without falsehood (Mark 12:14)
  4. The participants of worship (John 4:23)
    - a. True worshippers
    - b. Sought by the Father – “the Father seeketh such to worship him.”
  5. The object of true worship (John 4:23-24)
    - a. The Father
    - b. God who is a Spirit
      - 1) Changed in most bibles with “a” being removed so that “God is spirit.” However, this denies the personality of God making Him impersonal.
      - 2) That God is a Spirit means that He is a spiritual being. He does not have a fleshly body. Therefore, He is not pleased by fleshly actions. A spiritual being demands spiritual worship.
  6. The actions of true worship (John 4:24)
    - a. Praise (Psalm 138:2)
    - b. Prayer (Psalm 95:6)
    - c. Song (Psalm 66:4)
    - d. Giving (1Chronicles 16:29)
    - e. Obedience (Hebrews 13:15-16)
- E. Special Notes: What the New Testament Says about the Jew [Does the New Testament teach us to look on Jews as Christ-killers? Is the blood of Christ still on their hands?]
1. Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22); Jesus came to fulfill the Jewish law (Matthew 5:17).
  2. God's word came through the Jews (Romans 3:1-2); this includes the New Testament books.
  3. God's gifts to man came through the Jews (Romans 9:4-5).
    - a. The law – the basis for all good law
    - b. The promises – the basis for all hope for man
    - c. Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 9:15; Hebrews 2:16; Isaiah 9:6)

4. The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah (Acts 2:22-23).
  - a. They accepted the blood of Christ (Matthew 27:22-25).
  - b. But Christ prayed for their forgiveness because of their ignorance (Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17).
  - c. Jesus was rejected by all men (Acts 4:24-28; 1 Corinthians 2:8).
5. The Jews attempt to establish their own righteousness (Romans 10:2-3).
  - a. The example of Paul (Philippians 3:5-9)
  - b. The need of all (Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 Kings 8:46; Psalm 14:3)
  - c. The curse of the law (Deuteronomy 27:26; Romans 7:10-14; Galatians 3:21-22)
  - d. The redemption of Christ (Galatians 3:10-13; Romans 8:3)
  - e. The power of imputation (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
6. The Jews will yet receive their kingdom (Acts 1:6-7; Romans 11:25-27).
7. Some Jews will come to Jesus as Messiah even today (Romans 11:1-5).

F. His Expression of His Identity (John 4:25-26)

1. Her expectation of Christ (John 4:25)
  - a. He will come.
  - b. He will tell us all things.
2. The identity of the Christ (John 4:26)

III. CHRIST'S TEACHING OF HIS DISCIPLES (John 4:27-38)

A. The Wondering Disciples (John 4:27)

1. Their surprise – “marveled”
2. Their silence – “no man said”

B. The Witnessing Woman (John 4:28-30)

1. Her thrill (John 4:28) – “left her waterpot”
2. Her target (John 4:28) – “to the men”
3. Her testimony (John 4:29) – “is not this the Christ?”
4. Her triumph (John 4:30) – “they...came unto him.”

C. The Working Saviour (John 4:31-34)

1. The meat of the disciples (John 4:31)
2. The meat they knew not of (John 4:32-33)
3. The meat of the Master (John 4:34)
  - a. To do the will of God (John 5:30; John 6:38; Hebrews 10:7)

- b. The meat offering (Leviticus 2); the bloodless sacrifice points to a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).
  - (1) A picture of the life of Christ
  - (1) A picture of the life of the surrendered believer

#### D. The Waiting Harvest (John 4:35-38)

1. Readiness of the harvest (John 4:35)
  - a. The tendency to deny its readiness (Romans 13:11-12)
  - b. The time to reap is now.
    - (1) Causing a need for laborers (Matthew 9:36-38)
    - (1) Requiring an expectation (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)
2. Reward for the harvest (John 4:36a)
  - a. Wages to be received (1Corinthians 3:11-15)
  - b. Fruit unto eternal life (Galatians 6:7-9)
3. Rejoicing over the harvest (John 4:36b)
  - a. The joy of the harvest (Psalm 126:5-6)
  - b. The joy in heaven (Luke 15:10)
4. Responsibility for the harvest (John 4:37)
  - a. The work of sowing
  - b. The work of reaping
  - c. Laborers together with God (1Corinthians 3:5-10)
5. Recognition for the harvest (John 4:38)
  - a. The reapers often bestow less labor.
  - b. The reapers enter into the labor of others.