

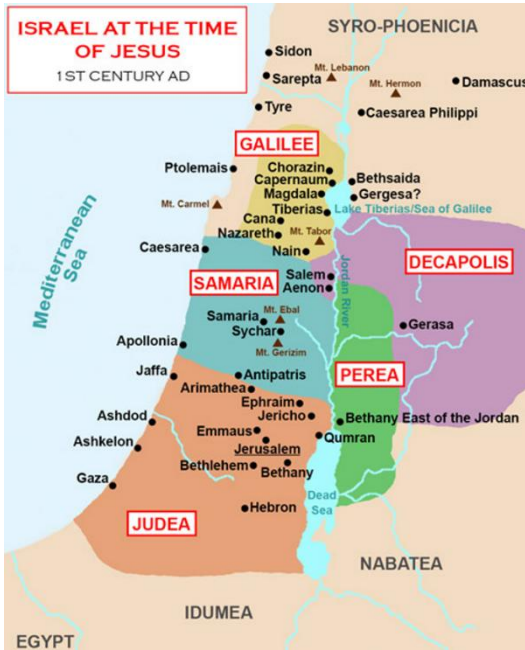


Lesson 14 – At Jacob’s Well

Based on John 4:1-42

1) Early in His ministry where did Jesus head off to?

John 4:3-5 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through _____. 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.



On the way to Galilee Jesus passed through Samaria. It was noon when He reached the beautiful Vale of Shechem. At the opening of this valley was Jacob's well. Wearing with His journey, He sat down here to rest while His disciples went to buy food.

The Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies, and as far as possible avoided all dealing with each other. To trade with the Samaritans in case of necessity was indeed counted lawful by the rabbis; but all social intercourse with them was condemned. A Jew would not borrow from a Samaritan, nor receive a kindness, not even a morsel of bread or a cup of water. The disciples, in buying food, were acting in harmony with the custom of their nation. But beyond this they did not go. To ask a favor of the Samaritans, or in any way seek to benefit them, did not enter into the thought of even Christ's disciples.

2) What happened next?

John 4:6-8 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the _____ hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to _____. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

In the East, water was called “the gift of God.” To offer a drink to the thirsty traveler was held to be a duty so sacred that the Arabs of the desert would go out of their way in order to perform it. The hatred between Jews and Samaritans prevented the woman from offering a kindness to Jesus; but the Saviour was seeking to find the key to this heart, and with the tact born of divine love, He asked, not offered, a favor.

3) Stunned by His question, what did she ask?

John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a _____, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the _____.

The woman saw that Jesus was a Jew. In her surprise she forgot to grant His request, but tried to learn the reason for it. **“How is it,”** she said, **“that Thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?”**

4) Jesus replied:



John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the _____ of God, and _____ it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The woman had not comprehended the words of Christ, but she felt their solemn import. Her light, bantering manner began to change.

- 5) **John 4:11-12** The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to _____ with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou _____ than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

She saw before her only a thirsty traveler, wayworn and dusty. In her mind she compared Him with the honored patriarch Jacob. She cherished the feeling, which is so natural, that no other well could be equal to that provided by the fathers. She was looking backward to the fathers, forward to the Messiah's coming, while the Hope of the fathers, the Messiah Himself, was beside her, and she knew Him not.

- 6) How did Jesus respond?

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this _____ shall thirst again: 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 _____.

He who seeks to quench his thirst at the fountains of this world will drink only to thirst again. Everywhere men are unsatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the soul. Only One can meet that want. The need of the world, "**The Desire of all nations**," is Christ. The divine grace which He alone can impart, is as living water, purifying, refreshing, and invigorating the soul.

Jesus did not convey the idea that merely one draft of the water of life would suffice the receiver. He who tastes of the love of Christ will continually long for more; but he seeks for nothing else. The riches, honors, and pleasures of the world do not attract him. The constant cry of his heart is, More of Thee. And He who reveals to the soul its necessity is waiting to satisfy its hunger and thirst. Every human resource and dependence will fail. The cisterns will be emptied, the pools become dry; but our Redeemer is an inexhaustible fountain.

- 7) Full of conviction, what did she ask for?

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I _____ not, neither come hither to draw.

Jesus now abruptly turned the conversation. Before this soul could receive the gift He longed to bestow, she must be brought to recognize her sin and her Saviour.

- 8) What request did Jesus make?

John 4:16-18 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy _____, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had _____ husbands; and he whom thou now hast is _____ thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.



The listener trembled. A mysterious hand was turning the pages of her life history, bringing to view that which she had hoped to keep forever hidden. Who was He that could read the secrets of her life? There came to her thoughts of eternity, of the future Judgment, when all that is now hidden shall be revealed. In its light, conscience was awakened.

9) What diversion did she try in order to avoid the conversation?

John 4:19-20 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a _____. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to _____.

Patiently Jesus permitted her to lead the conversation whither she would. Meanwhile He watched for the opportunity of again bringing the truth home to her heart.

10) Jesus replied:

John 4:21-24 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the _____. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the _____ worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in _____ and in _____.

11) Seeing that she was in the presence of someone special, what did she say?

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called _____: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

12) Jesus said something next that He almost never did, what was it?

John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, _____ that speak unto thee _____ he.

The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit's working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He waits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters.

13) What prophecy came to her mind by way of the Spirit?

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a _____ from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

That which had been withheld from the Jews, and which the disciples were afterward enjoined to keep secret, was revealed to her. Jesus saw that she would make use of her knowledge in bringing others to share His grace.

When the disciples returned from their errand, they were surprised to find their Master speaking with the woman. He had not taken the refreshing draught that He desired, and He did not stop to eat the food His disciples had brought. When the woman had gone, the disciples entreated Him to eat. They saw Him silent, absorbed, as in rapt meditation. His face was beaming with light, and they feared to interrupt His communion with heaven. But they knew that He was faint and weary, and thought it their duty to remind Him of His physical necessities. Jesus recognized their loving interest, and He said, ***"I have meat to eat that ye know not of."***



14) What happened next?

John 4:33-34 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man _____ him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the _____ of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

As His words to the woman had aroused her conscience, Jesus rejoiced. He saw her drinking of the water of life, and His own hunger and thirst were satisfied. The accomplishment of the mission which He had left heaven to perform strengthened the Saviour for His labor, and lifted Him above the necessities of humanity. To minister to a soul hungering and thirsting for the truth was more grateful to Him than eating or drinking. It was a comfort, a refreshment, to Him. Benevolence was the life of His soul.

15) What did the woman at the well do immediately?

John 4:28-29 The woman then left her _____, and went her way into the city, and _____ to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the _____?

Ever since the fall of Adam Christ had been committing the seed of the word to His chosen servants, to be sown in human hearts. And an unseen agency, even an omnipotent power, had worked silently but effectually to produce the harvest. The dew and rain and sunshine of God's grace had been given, to refresh and nourish the seed of truth. Christ was about to water the seed with His own blood. His disciples were privileged to be laborers together with God. They were coworkers with Christ and with the holy men of old.

16) What did the townspeople do when they heard the good news?

John 4:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they _____ him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

In the words spoken to the woman at the well, good seed had been sown, and how quickly the harvest was received. The Samaritans came and heard Jesus, and believed on Him. Crowding about Him at the well, they plied Him with questions, and eagerly received His explanations of many things that had been obscure to them. As they listened, their perplexity began to clear away. They were like a people in great darkness tracing up a sudden ray of light till they had found the day. But they were not satisfied with this short conference. They were anxious to hear more, and to have their friends also listen to this wonderful teacher. They invited Him to their city, and begged Him to remain with them. For two days He tarried in Samaria, and many more believed on Him.

This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.

Can you see how Jesus in your heart is a powerful thing?

Are you interested in drinking deeply from the well Jesus mentioned?

When is the time to begin?