

## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Text: John 4: 1-42

### I. CONSIDER THE COURSE

John 4:1-6a

Our Lord is within one hundred yards of the tomb of Joseph when he encounters the woman at the well. This is a very important piece of ground. There are any number of places the Lord Jesus could have chosen to give such a detailed explanation of why He came. Why did He choose this place, this time, this person?

A. It was Jacob's land by purchase.

Gen. 33:18-20: "And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.

And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-israel."

B. It was Jacob's land by conquest.

Genesis 48:22b: "...I (Jacob) took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow."

C. It was Joseph's land by inheritance.

Genesis 48:22a: "Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren...."

Joshua 24:32: "And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph."

Genesis 49:22: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall."

### II. CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION

John 4:6-26

A. A Portrait of Jesus, Divine Yet Human

John 4:6-8

We see Jesus, tired and desiring water to be refreshed. We also see Jesus with Divine knowledge, even in His weariness to position Himself in this particular place at this particular time to witness to this particular woman.

We believe in the hypostatic union, which is "...the doctrine that in the one person of Jesus there are presently two distinct natures: the divine and human. Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1, 14, 10:30-33, 20:28; Philippians 2:5-8; Heb. 1:8). He is fully God and fully man (Col. 2:9), thus, He has two natures: God and man. He is not half God and half man. He is 100% God and 100% man. He never lost His divinity. He continued to exist as God when He became a man and added human nature to Himself (Philippians 2:5-11). Therefore, there is a "union in one person of a full human nature and a full divine nature." Right now in Heaven there is a man, Jesus, who is our Mediator between us and God the Father (1 Tim. 2:5)" (The Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry).

B. The Detached, Defeated and Dejected Woman (John 4:9)

These words depict a broken-hearted woman who does not feel worthy of life, let alone eternal life. Rejection is a result of the fall. Our alienation from God (Ephesians 4:18; Colossians 1:21) is a natural segue for the Devil to tell us lies, i.e. that we are not able to receive the life of God in the new birth because we are not worthy. We have also chosen to sin against God, so we believe because we have taken sides against the pure, sinless nature of God we cannot, therefore, find our way back. In this Samaritan experience of the woman at the well, the Lord Jesus dispels every argument as to why a sinner cannot be saved.

C. Words to Stir Interest and Give Hope (John 4:10-15)

Jesus, the Master Teacher, while showing us His love for a lost world in this famous story, is also showing us how to be an effective witness. The Lord takes the environment, culture and an everyday experience and makes His point. Many times we go out of our way in elaborate theological trajectories, when the opening God gives us is right before our eyes.

III. CONSIDER THE CONVICTION (John 4:16-18)

Why did the Lord bring up the woman's personal life? The answer is the words of Jesus as found in Luke 13:3, 5, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Repent means we are to turn about and be sorry for our sins. Paul said, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10). Dr. Billy Graham, when asked did he have anything in his many years of evangelistic crusades he would have done differently, answered, "I would have emphasized repentance more." For approximately thirty years Willow Creek Church was considered the most influential church in America. Bill Hybels, Willow Creek's founding pastor said after years of

ministry, “Our dream is that we fundamentally change the way we do church. That we take out a clean sheet of paper and we rethink all of our old assumptions. Replace it with new insights. Insights that are informed by research and rooted in Scripture.” This is an amazing statement! What is “new” is “old.” In my opinion, the modern de-emphasis of repentance is more than a different style; it is a departure from the Scriptures. Our Lord interrupted this beautiful discourse at the well to discuss the reality of sin in our life with the underlying demand to repent.

#### IV. CONSIDER THE CREED (John 4:19-26)

- A. The Woman Recognized Jesus as More Than a Man (John 4:19)
- B. The Old Testament Format of Worship (John 4:20)
- C. The New Testament Prospectus (John 4:21-23)
- D. The Old and New Testament Truth (John 4:24)
- E. The Incarnation Revealed (John 4:25, 26)

#### V. CONSIDER THE CONVERSION (John 4:27-29)

- A. The Shock of the Disciples (John 4:27)
- B. The Significance of the Abandoned Waterpot (John 4:28)
- C. The Statements of the Thoroughly Converted Woman (John 4:29)
  - 1. An invitation to others: (“Come”).
  - 2. An unconditional love revealed: (“which told me all things that ever I did”).
  - 3. An unequivocal witness of the Messiah: (“Is not this the Christ”).
    - a. Some believed on the spot because they also wanted this unconditional love (John 4:29).
    - b. Some believed later because of further clarification (John 4:41, 42).

#### Conclusion:

- 1. There is greater joy in this world and the one hereafter that exceeds all carnal appetites (John 4:31-34).
- 2. In evangelism, we must be willing to take the initiative (John 4:35).

Jesus came looking for her; she did not come looking for Him. Yes, Nicodemus came looking for Jesus and Zacchaeus came looking for Jesus. Yet Nicodemus came by night and Zacchaeus had to be retrieved from a tree. We must follow the admonition of Jesus who said, “And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the

highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23).

3. True witnessing is a team effort (John 4:36-38).
  - a. We are prone to demand instant gratification for our labor.
  - b. We are also pridefully desirous to take the credit.
  - c. When the glory of God is our goal, we delight in the Divine providence in which the Lord chooses to lead us and others to accomplish His purposes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.