

JAMES RAFFERTY

2024

Q4

L5

The Revelation of Jesus

OCT 26-Nov 1

Lesson 5: The Testimony *of the Samaritans* (Wednesday)

October 26-November 1

Wednesday *October 30*

The Revelation of Jesus

Read John 4:16–24. What did Jesus do to show this woman that He knew her deepest secrets, and how did she respond?

COLOSSIANS 4:6-

GRACE AND TRUTH -

“Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, 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 five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. (that’s good ;)

Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and Ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe Me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 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 true 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 spirit and in truth.” John 4:16-24 KJV

The light was too blinding to look at directly. While recognizing Jesus as a prophet, the woman practices avoidance again. She asks Jesus a

question of religious controversy between Jews and Samaritans—the proper place to worship.

In response, Jesus pointed out that the Samaritans did not know what they worshiped. Their worship was a synthesis of Judaism and paganism. The Jews worshiped the God who reveals Himself—another important admission for a Samaritan.

Worship of the true God is not tied to a place. The discussion, therefore, about a place of worship was irrelevant to the conversation. For God is spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. The woman accepted the plain truth conveyed by Jesus and was ready for more.

Read John 4:25, 26. How did Jesus reveal to her His identity?

“The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He.”

John 4:25-26 KJV

In all four Gospels, this is the only passage before His trial in which Jesus plainly stated to someone that He was the Messiah. And He did it, not to some large crowd or important personage, but to an unnamed Samaritan woman, alone, at Jacob’s well. He is interested in any lonely soul who feels separated and alone.

And so to this woman, who was not only from an alien culture, but was not of the highest moral character either, Jesus openly reveals who He is. And, having revealed to her His knowledge of her darkest secrets, He also gave this woman a great reason to believe in Him, as well.

What should this story tell us about why the gospel needs to break down the barriers that we humans create with each other?

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd

1. JOHN 4:16-26 THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - YOU ARE NOT PASSED BY BECAUSE OF YOUR HISTORY - MESSIAH IS COMING TO YOU - CHRIST IS INTERESTED IN YOU - JESUS KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE WRONG - ALL THE MISTAKES AND HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU LIVING WATER TO TAKE AWAY YOUR THIRST FOR EMPTY RELATIONSHIPS SO THAT YOU NEVER THIRST AGAIN.

Discussion questions:

3. Put yourself in the place of that Samaritan woman. A total stranger comes and lets her know that He is aware of her deepest secrets. How could anyone, much less a stranger, have known these things? No wonder she was impressed by Jesus. What should this story tell us about how the Lord knows everything about us, even the deepest, darkest secrets that we would not want anyone to know? And yet, what does the way He treated her say to us about how He wants to deal with us, even when He knows our secrets? What comfort can you draw from this truth?