

Program: SS Panel 2024 4 Q

Quarterly title: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson Title: #5 The Testimony of the Samaritans

For Lesson Dates: *October 26-November 1, 2024*

Section title: Tuesday - Whom Do We Worship?

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

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Lesson 5

**October 26–November 1*

The Testimony of the Samaritans

Read for This Week’s Study: *John 4:1–42; John 3:26–30; Jer. 2:13; Zech. 14:8; Ezek. 36:25–27.*

Memory Text: “Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world’” (*John 4:42, NKJV*).

THURSDAY

October 31

The Testimony of the Samaritans

Read John 4:27–29. What surprising action did the woman take?

John 4:27–29 27 And at this *point* His disciples came, and **they marveled that He talked with a woman**; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

The woman

From: Vincent Word Studies: Rev., correctly, *a woman*. They were surprised, not at his talking with *that* woman, but that their teacher should converse with *any* woman in public. The Rabbinical writings taught that it was beneath a man's dignity to converse with women. It was one of the six things which a Rabbi might not do. “Let no one,” it is written, “converse with a woman in the street, not even with his own wife.” It was also held in these writings that a woman was incapable of profound religious instruction. “Rather burn the sayings of the law than teach them to women.”

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 “**Come, see** a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

*****READ*****

How much interest Christ manifested in this one woman! How earnest and eloquent were His words! When the woman heard them, she left her waterpot, and went into the city, saying to her friends, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” We read that “many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him.” Verses 29, 39. And who can estimate the influence which these words have exerted for the saving of souls in the years that have passed since then?

Wherever hearts are open to receive the truth, Christ is ready to instruct them. He reveals to them the Father, and the service acceptable to Him who reads the heart. For such He uses no parables. To them, as to the woman at the well, He says, “I that speak unto thee am He.” MH 28.1-MH 28.2

>>> this Samaritan woman that heard the marvelous words that Jesus spoke to her found a new reason to live, and she became an instrument that God could use to help others discover the Saviour of the world. Surely, when she woke up that morning she

thought it was going to be another regular day, like any other. But this was a turning point in her life. Now, she had a light to share with others. God can use anyone that places himself or herself in His wonderful hands.

Jesus' discussion with the woman is interrupted by the arrival of the disciples. Though surprised that He was speaking with a woman, they did not question Him. Instead, they urged Him to eat.

The woman, meanwhile, left her water pot and rushed into the city to share with others what she had just experienced with Jesus.

Read John 4:30–42. What happened following this encounter, and what does it teach about how the gospel can be spread?

John 4:30–42 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

REF:> 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.” DA 190.4

The disciples wondered who could have brought Him food; but He explained, “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to accomplish His work.” John 4:34, R. V. 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. DA 190.5

John 4:35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

37 For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’

38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

*****READ*****

It seems strange that Jesus’ narrative about a harvest would interrupt the story of the conversion of many in the city. But John wants us to see how Jesus understood what was happening. **Sharing the plan of salvation with a Samaritan woman was far more important to Him than was eating.** To lead souls to salvation was His purpose, and He used this occasion to teach His disciples the urgency of sharing the gospel with all people, even with those not like them.

The Savior of the World

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.”

>>> As we share of the testimony of scriptures with others, of the life of Christ and his love for us, lives are impacted and interest awakened in those with whom we share. All this happens because the Holy Spirit speaks through us in the Holy Spirit moved upon the heart and minds of people to receive the heavenly gift of words of life from God's throne of grace.

John 4:40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of His own word.

42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

>> I can imagine that some people saw a crowd heading to the well and wondering what was going on, and decided to follow the crowd.....

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Mat 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The Samaritans were Gentiles by blood; but being the descendants of those whom the king of Assyria had transported from the East to supply the place of the ten tribes carried captive, **they had adopted the religion of the Jews, though with admixtures of their own: and, as the nearest neighbors of the Jews, they occupied a place intermediate between them and the Gentiles. Accordingly, when this prohibition was to be taken off, on the effusion of the Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles were told that they should be Christ's witnesses first "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea," then "in Samaria," and lastly, "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Act 1:8).** From: Jamieson-Fausset-Brown

It seems strange that Jesus' narrative about a harvest would interrupt the story of the conversion of many in the city. But John wants us to see how Jesus understood what was happening. **Sharing the plan of salvation with a Samaritan woman was far more important to Him than was eating.** To lead souls to salvation was His purpose, and He used this occasion to teach His disciples the urgency of sharing the gospel with all people, even with those not like them.

There are many high points in the Gospel of John. Surely John 4:39–42 is among them. Many of the Samaritans believed because of the testimony of the woman who testified, " 'He told me all that I ever did' " (John 4:39, NKJV).

The Samaritans asked Jesus to stay with them. The result was that many more believed because of the Word of Jesus. "Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world'" (John 4:42, NKJV).

What should this story tell us about how powerful the witness of even one person could be? How powerful a witness are you to what Jesus has done in your life?