

John 12 – Christ’s Spring of Living Waters Salvation

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John 4:7-15

Jesus’ Stops at Sychar

- Jesus stopped at Jacob’s well at Sychar near a field Jacob had given to Joseph
- Jesus sent all His disciples into town to buy food
- Jesus waits at the well for this woman to come



Biblical Imagery of Water

- Christ is using metaphors familiar to the woman
 - Use of water metaphors for spiritual is very ancient
 - For with you [God] is the fountain of life (Is 48:6)
 - Teaching of the wise is a fountain of life (Ps 119:104, 105:4)
 - God is a fountain of living waters rejected by Jews (Is 48:10)
 - She is not described as educated but she does grasp the metaphor when she finally perceives His perspective

Ezekiel Links Water and Spirit

- Ezekiel describes God as bringing His people into their own land and cleansing them with clean water (Ez 36:24,28)
 - This illustrates a purification rite (Ez 36:23, 28)
 - God gives them His Spirit (New Covenant) (Ez 37:14-18, 20; 44:17)
 - Near View: Begins with Pentecost after Calvary
 - Far View: Millennial Kingdom
- Jesus describes His salvation to the Samaritan woman, and us, using this water metaphor for indwelling Holy Spirit

Jews–Samaritans Believed Torah

Judaism

- Jews were Hebrews
- Jews had the Torah
- Jews conflated Torah with their traditions (Talmud)
- Jew's Temple on Mt Zion: Rome destroyed it

Samaritanism

- Samaritans gen. Hebrews
- Samaritans had a Torah
- Samaritans blended Torah with their traditions
- Samaritan's Temple Mt. Gerizim: Jews destroyed it

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11111/samaritanism>

Fits the Opening Hymn Theme

- He came to His own (Jews) who did not receive Him
 - Nicodemus - *Teacher* of Israel
- He came to His own (those the Jews had condemned)
 - Woman (Samaritan) at the well of Sychar
 - Condemned by her own society
- She did not come to find God, God came to find her

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (Jn 1:11-13)

Jesus Engages the Dialogue

- Jesus at the well at noon when woman approaches
 - Jesus *orders* her to give Him a drink (Cultural) (Imperative)
 - Woman shocked: not that Jesus demanded water but that He talked to her at all - Recognized as a Jew
 - This means Jesus' *appearance* was Jewish: forelocks and a tallit with tzitzits at corners {Kippahs: use started later}
 - Church representations of Jesus are not correct

Gift of God - Living Water

- Jesus brushes away her observation; she saw only a man
 - Dialogue would have been characterized by Jewish doctrinal differences which does occur later in dialogue
 - Jesus redirects her to His true identity - Messiah
- Jesus does point out her spiritual ignorance
 - Gift of God is Living Water (Jr 2:13; Ez 36:24-28)
 - Seeker only has to ask {requires God's invention (Jo 3:10-18)}

She is Looking for Magic Water

- She equates *living water* with special or magical *physical* water but notices He cannot obtain the water
 - He has no tools to draw water; how does one change ordinary water into living water except by being a greater man than Jacob who provided this well
- Jesus tells her the well water is not special but His water is special, as *He* is special - He is Messiah {Jacob's God}

She Wants the *Living Water*

- Christ tells her that if she drinks of His water she will never thirst again and will become a spring of water able to give to others also (Charisma - Holy Spirit)
(Jc. 12:7-10)
 - She remains in the temporal realm of physical thirst
 - She focuses on her reason for wanting to avoid the well
- Jesus perceives her issue and addresses it headon

Call Your Husband!

- Her marital status is not her issue merely a symptom of her issue, a doorway to address her issue: sin
 - She could lie; her truthfulness is an indication of her search for peace: liars are not interested in finding God
 - She says she has no husband, she has had five husbands (death or divorce not the issue) (Pietists stop here)
 - One she lives with now is not her husband - Symptom

She Equates Jesus as a Man

- Since Jesus divined her true history she raises her opinion of Him: he must be a prophet, still a man
- Now, she wants to enter a debate of whose religion is correct: Jews or Samaritans
 - Jews worship at the Temple in Jerusalem (Mt Zion)
 - Samaritans worship on Mt Gerizim (Temple destroyed)

Jesus Deflects Her Distraction

- Christ says that in the future neither place will be places of worship to God (After Pentecost)
 - Samaritans do not know what they worship (Demons) (1Co 10:18,21)
 - Salvation is of the Jews - They preserved the writings (Ro 3:1-4)
- *True Believers* moves the discussion from Jews versus Samaritans to direct worship of the Father (Ep 4:6)

The Hour Is – Beginning Now

- The woman's perspective was religion but Christ redirects her to the Father, source of spiritual truth
 - Father seeks people to worship Him in Truth (Ro 9:19,26)
 - Father is Spirit: worship poss. only via the Holy Spirit
- This negates the claims of both Jews and Samaritans of whose site is appropriate for the practice of worship; God is not limited to sites (Mt 5:33,37)

Woman Understands Messiah

- Woman says when Messiah will come He will tell us all things, she is transitioning to the truth of Him (Spirit)
 - If Samaritans simply idolaters they would have no knowledge of or belief in Messiah - Discussion pointless
 - Clearly shows Jews not only people waiting for Messiah (Ro 4:4-5; Ep 1:7-10)
- Christ plainly admits to her that He is Messiah; He did not directly tell Nicodemus, the *learned Jew*

Dialogue Focuses on Worship

- Truth: Jerusalem was the only place to offer sacrifices
- False: Judaism was to be the eternal form of practice
- Many confuse practice with worship, even today
 - David worshiped God but he practiced at the Temple
(1s 31:16-17)
 - Worship is conducted by everyone, continually (spirit)
(1C= 2:6-10)

More Than a Story of Salvation

- John describes this dialogue, which he must have learned from Jesus as he was not present, summarizing Christ's teaching that inflamed the Jews
 - Jerusalem was not going to be the residence of God
 - Jerusalem was not going to be the religious/political capital of the world (Sadducees and Pharisees united)
 - Jews were not going to be over all the nations

Remains the dream of Zionists today in Israel - Ben Gurion Look Magazine Interview 1962
<https://www.pu.org/1962/01/04/archive/ben-gurion-60s-interview-gradual-democratization-of-the-western-israel>

Root Conflict Highlights Gospel

- John's gospel illustrations highlight this root conflict between Christ and the Jews
 - Jews who believed, submitted to God's will (True)
 - Jews who refused, rebelled against God's will (False)
- All who believe, Jews and Gentiles, will become one in Christ (body) though use via the Spirit will vary
(Ro 12:3-8, Co 3:25-29)

Jew's Gospel

- Come and be our slaves
 - Not equal in the Temple for worship {Court of Gentiles}
 - Unable to fully understand & interpret Torah {Non-Jew}
 - Not able to find justice under the Law against Jews {Considered as nonhumans under the Talmud}
- Understand why Gentiles reluctant to join Judaism?
 - Many did join, desperate for truth of God

World's Gospel

- Come and be our slaves {Inclusive of all religions}
 - Religious elites determine the law and its applications
 - Equality the rule but definition continually changes
 - Religious elites determine acceptable religions
 - Religious outward forms paramount for membership
 - Only constant: Rejection of Christ's truth of salvation
- Worshipping God in truth and spirit unifies ethnicities

Religions defined as work-based systems of slavery, err, salvation.

Christ Moves Worship Beyond World

- World religions, in whatever form they occur, worship through creation, invisible and visible (Ro. 1:25-32; Ga 3:19-21)
 - Their corrupted worship is revealed by their increasing debauched, rebellious and violent behaviors in all forms
- Father is outside of creation, not worshiped through His creation; only in truth taught by His Spirit to us
 - Christians revealed by maturing fruits of the Spirit 4th 5:22-25