

“A Great Savior!”
John 4:1-15

Introduction:

1. Sometimes - When We Sing:
 - The Hymns That We've Just Sung:
 - We Forget Who They Were Written By!
 - Of Course - They Would Be OK With That!
 - They Would Be Content:
 - Even As John The Baptist Was Content:
 - In Knowing That:
 - Even As We Sing Their Hymns:
 - Jesus Is Increasing & They Are Decreasing!
2. But - Sometimes:
 - It Is Good To Know Something:
 - About The Authors Who Wrote Our Hymns!
 - And That Is Certainly True:
 - About The Author Of All:
 - The Hymns We Sang This Morning - John Newton!
 - John Newton Was An Englishman:
 - Who Lived From 1725-1807!
 - And - In The Last 2/3 Of His Life:
 - He Was A Beloved Pastor In London:
 - And A Prolific Hymn-Writer!
 - But - In The First 1/3 Of His Life:
 - None Of That Would Have Seemed Remotely Possible!
 - When John Newton Was Just:
 - Seven Years Old:
 - His Godly Mother Died!
 - And At The Age Of Eleven:
 - He Went To Sea With His Father!
 - As Described By Several Writers: (Rev. H. Leigh Bennett / Diane Severance)
 - “His Life At Sea Teems With Wonderful Escapes, Vivid Dreams, And Sailor Recklessness! He Grew Into An Abandoned And Godless Sailor!”
 - Eventually - “Newton” Gained “A Reputation For Profanity, Coarseness, And Debauchery Which Even Shocked Many A Sailor!”
 - He Even Became Known As “The Great Blasphemer!” “He Sank So Low At One Point That He Was Even A Servant To Slaves In Africa For A Brief Period!”
 - Eventually, John Newton Became Part Of The Slave-Trade Himself, And Became A Captain Of A Slave Ship For Six Years!
 - During A Severe Storm On The High Seas, The Lord Brought To His Mind Some Bible Verses His Mother Taught Him When He Was A Boy! And Even Though He Felt As If He Was Beyond Any Hope:
 - John Newton Described March 21, 1748 - As The “Day The Lord Sent From On High And Delivered Me Out Of Deep Waters!”
 - The “Deep Waters” Of The Ocean & The Even “Deeper Waters” Of His Sin!
 - After John Was Saved, He Wanted To Serve His Savior With All Of His Heart & Through All Of His Life!
 - And So He Did - With Fervency!
 - One Of His Missions Was:
 - To Abolish The Slave Trade Of England:
 - In Its Entirety!
 - But - His Main Mission Was:
 - To Preach The Word Of God:
 - To Anyone The Lord Would Bring His Way!
 - John “Newton Lived To Be Eighty-Two Years Old And Continued To Preach And Have An Active Ministry Until Beset By Fading Health In The Last Two Years Of His Life. Even Then, Newton Never Ceased To Be Amazed By God’s Grace And Told His Friends:”
 - “My Memory Is Nearly Gone; But I Remember Two Things: That I Am A Great Sinner, And That Christ Is A Great Savior!”
 - 3. And - This Great Truth:

- Is What We Will Find:
 - As We Continue Through The Gospel Of John Together:
 - And - Especially - John 4:
 - Which We Will Begin Looking Into This Morning!
- Because - It Is In John 4:
 - Where We Will See In The Clearest Way:
 - Not Only The Kind Of Sinners:
 - We Are! But Also:
 - The Kind Of Savior:
 - We Have - In Jesus!
 - As John Newton Said:
 - “I Am” - And - We Are - “Great Sinners!”
 - But - “Christ Is A Great” - And Even A Greater - “Savior!”
- And - This Morning:
 - We Will Look At The First Part Of:
 - Jesus’ Meeting With The Woman At The Well:
 - From John 4:1-15!
 - Let’s Read These Verses Together!

4. What We Will Find In These Verses:

- Is First - The Kind Of Sinners:
 - We Are! But Then:
 - Second - The Kind Of Savior:
 - We Have - In Jesus Christ!
- And - Through It All:
 - May We Remember What John Newton Remembered:
 - “I Am A Great Sinner!” But - “Christ Is A Great Savior!”

* So - The First Thing I’d Like For Us To See From These Verses Is:

1. ***The Kind Of Sinners We Are!***

- And - The Kind Of Sinner You Are!
 - Which Is So Much Like:
 - The Samaritan Woman:
 - That We Just Read About!
 - Let’s Just Look At:
 - How This Woman:
 - Treated Jesus!
 - The First Thing We Notice Is:
- Her Own Disregard:
 - Of Jesus!
 - When We Meet Her In 4:7a:
 - As John Tells Us - “There Cometh A Woman Of Samaria To Draw Water!”
 - Someone Was Already There Waiting For Her!
 - Because - According To 4:6:
 - “Jesus Therefore, Being Wearied With His Journey, Sat Thus On The Well!”
 - Jesus Was Weary:
 - When He Arrived At That Well:
 - And - He Would Have Appeared:
 - To Anyone Who Saw Him:
 - As Extremely Tired & Thirsty!
 - And - This Samaritan Woman ***Had*** To Have Seen Jesus:
 - As He Was Sitting There:
 - On The Very Edge Of The Well:
 - From Which She Was Going To Draw!
 - But - As She Got Closer:
 - How Did This Woman Treat:
 - This Tired & Thirsty Stranger?
 - She Disregarded Him & His Clear Needs!
 - Instead Of *Offering* Jesus Water:
 - Jesus Had To *Ask* For Water!

- We Also See:
- Her Own Disobedience:
 - To Jesus!
 - Because - In Spite Of Her Disregard:
 - Jesus Does Ask Her:
 - 4:7 - “Give Me To Drink!”
 - Now - Of Course - This Was:
 - A Simple Request!
 - But - From The Mouth Of Jesus:
 - It Was Even More!
 - Back In 4:1 - John Once Again:
 - Identifies Jesus As “The Lord!”
 - And So - It Wasn’t Just:
 - Another Man Asking Her:
 - For Water - It Was The Lord Himself:
 - Who Made A Demand & Even A Command Of Her! (Imperative)
 - But - How Does She Respond?
 - Instead Of Complying With Jesus’ Request:
 - And Showing Compassion!
 - She Ignores His Request:
 - And Shows Her True Character In Her Reply!
 - In 4:9 - John Tells Us “Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?”
 - Its Interesting That Three Times We Are Told That This Woman Is A Woman Of Samaria!
 - Because - There Was Great Hostility:
 - Between The Jews & The Samaritans:
 - That Went All The Way Back:
 - To When Israel Was Restored To Their Land After Their Captivity:
 - In Babylon! (Ezra!)
 - And So - Between These Two Groups Of People:
 - Living As Neighbors - Not Very Neighborly!
 - There Was Racial Prejudice!
 - Because The Jews Considered The Samaritans As “Half-Breeds” If Not “Gentiles” Altogether!
 - There Was Also Religious Prejudice!
 - Though Both The Jews & Samaritans Claimed To Believe In The Same God - The Jews Considered The Samaritans’ Religion To Be Corrupt!
 - And So - The Samaritans Themselves:
 - Especially Samaritan Women:
 - Were Considered Perpetually Unclean!
 - But - Along With This - There Was Also:
 - Relationship Prejudice!
 - The Jews Considered The Samaritans:
 - To Be The Worst Kinds Of Sinners!
 - And So - When John Describes This Woman:
 - As A “Woman Of Samaria!”
 - Not Only Does He Have All This History & Hostility In Mind:
 - He Wants Us To See Her As:
 - A “Samaritan Of The Samaritans!”
 - In Philippians - The Apostle Paul:
 - Described Himself As:
 - A “Hebrew Of The Hebrews!”
 - In A Positive Way!
 - But - To Be A “Samaritan Of The Samaritans!”
 - Meant That This Woman Was Seen, Even By The Samaritans:
 - To Be The Worst Of Them!
 - A Total Outcast!
 - Which Is Also Probably Why:
 - She Went To *That Well At That Time Of Day - Alone!*

- And So - This Woman:
 - Also - With All That History & Hostility In Mind:
 - Instead Of Complying With Jesus' Request:
 - Ignores His Request:
 - And Reveals Just How Hard Her Heart Was!
 - But - Things Don't End There!
 - They Get Even Worse! Because We Also See:
- Her Own Disbelief:
 - In Jesus!
 - After Jesus Tells The Woman - In 4:10 - That:
 - If **She** Had Asked **Him**:
 - For Something To Drink:
 - He Would Have Gladly & Generously Given Her "Living Water!"
 - But - How Does She Reply This Time?
 - 4:11 - "The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?"
 - Though She Addresses Him Somewhat Politely - As "Sir" - Even - "Lord" - She Really Didn't Understand:
 - The Reality & Truth Of What She Said!
 - If She Really Knew Him:
 - To Be "Lord" - She Would Have:
 - Believed His Word!
 - But - Since She Didn't Know Him:
 - As "Lord" - She Did Not:
 - Believe His Word!
 - Instead - What Jesus Said:
 - Was A Complete Impossibility:
 - From Her Perspective! After All:
 - Jesus Had No Way:
 - To Bring Up The Water From The Well!
 - He Had No Bucket Or Rope!
 - And - Jesus Had No Way:
 - To Go Down And Get The Water In The Well!
 - It Was Too Deep & Too Narrow! Still True!
 - So - This Samaritan Woman Is Still:
 - Under A Cloud Of Unbelief - And Questions:
 - The Ability Of Jesus!
 - But - Even More - We See In These Verses:
 - Her Own Disdain:
 - For Jesus!
 - In 4:12 - She Asks Jesus:
 - "Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?"
 - In Questioning:
 - Not Only Jesus' Goodness:
 - To Give Her "Living Water!"
 - But Also His Greatness:
 - She Tries To Put Jesus In His Place!
 - You Can't Be "Greater" Than Jacob:
 - Because He Is "Our" Father - She Tells Him!
 - As If They Were The Same!
 - And Then - To Make Matters Worse:
 - We Also See In 4:15:
 - Her Own Demand:
 - Of Jesus!
 - When She Says - "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw!"
 - Here - She Makes The Same Demand Of Jesus - As Jesus:
 - Made Of Her! "Give Me!"

- But - Even If There Was:
 - *Some* Sincerity In Her Words:
 - She Only Wanted The Water:
 - For Her Own Physical Comfort & Convenience!
- And So - All The Way Through These Verses:
 - This Woman Of Samaria:
 - Continues To Resist:
 - What Jesus Came To Give Her!
 - But - What Was In:
 - That Woman - Is The Same Thing:
 - In You & In Me!
 - We See In Her:
 - The Kind Of Sinners We Are!
 - In Us - Even “In Our Flesh” - Dwelleth:
 - No Good Thing! (Romans 7:18)
 - What John Newton Said:
 - Is True Of Us *All!*
 - “I Am A Great Sinner!”
 - And - Left To Yourself:
 - You Would Have Resisted Christ:
 - In The Same Way This Woman Of Samaria Did!
 - Think About Your Own:
 - Disregard Of The Lord! (Ignore)
 - Disobedience To The Lord!
 - Disbelief Of The Lord!
 - Disdain For The Lord! (Question) And Even:
 - Demands Of The Lord!
 - But - Praise God:
 - We Can Also See From These Verses:
 - Not Only The Kind Of Sinners We Are:
 - But Also:

2. ***The Kind Of Savior We Have – In Jesus!***

- “I Am A Great Sinner!” - John Newton Said!
 - But - “Christ Is A Great Savior!”
 - And - We See His Greatness:
 - All Throughout These Verses!
 - And - He Is The Kind Of Savior:
 - You Still Need!
 - After All - Just Look At How:
 - Jesus Treated This Woman Of Samaria:
 - In Spite Of How She Treated Him!
 - In The Beginning Verses Of This Chapter:
 - We See:
 - The Greatness Of Christ’s Purpose!
 - In 4:1-4 - John Tells Us That:
 - Jesus Was Going To Leave:
 - The Successful Ministry He Was Having:
 - In Judea! And Head Back To:
 - The District Of Galilee!
 - And - In 4:4 - We Are Told:
 - “And He Must Needs Go Through Samaria!”
 - Now - It Was True That:
 - For Jews - The Shortest & Easiest Route Between Judea & Galilee:
 - Went Through Samaria!
 - And - It Has Also Been Verified:
 - That Most Jews Would Opt:
 - For This Route!
 - Only The Most Religious & Strict Jews:

- Would Go Around Samaria!
- But - The Way This Is Put:
 - Reveals That Jesus Had A Purpose:
 - To Go Through Samaria!
 - He Could Have Chosen Another Route!
 - But - He Didn't!
- Instead - We See The Divine Nature & Purpose:
 - Of Jesus Christ In These Verses!
 - In 4:1 - He Left Judea:
 - Because He "Knew" That - In Spite Of The Great Success He Was Having:
 - Neither The Time Nor The Place Was Right For Him To Stay!
 - So - In 4:4 - "He Must Needs Go Through Samaria!"
 - Because - There Was Someone In Samaria:
 - He Had To Meet!
 - This Is The Kind Of Savior We Have In Jesus!
 - A Savior With A Great Purpose!
 - To "Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!" - Purpose - Led Him From Heaven To Earth To The Cross! Die / Live / Save!
 - But Then - We Also See:
- The Greatness Of Christ's Pursuit!
 - Because - In 4:5-6 - We See That Jesus:
 - Arrived - At:
 - Just The Right Place!
 - There At "Jacob's Well!"
 - And At - Just The Right Time!
 - "About The Sixth Hour" - Probably Around High Noon!
 - Perhaps This Was Why Jesus Was So:
 - "Wearied With His Journey!" (4:6)
 - His Disciples Didn't Seem As Weary!
 - They Headed Into The City To Get Some Food!
 - But - Jesus Was In Hot Pursuit:
 - Of One Of His Sheep:
 - Who Had Gone Astray!
 - Jesus Was The One Leading The Way:
 - So That He Could Get To:
 - Just The Right Place At Just The Right Time - So:
 - He Could Reach Just The Right Person!
 - Jesus Pursued After:
 - The Woman Of Samaria:
 - To Save Her!
 - And - Whereas We See:
 - The Divine Side:
 - Of Jesus Nature & Purpose:
 - In 4:1-4!
 - Here - We See:
 - The Human Side:
 - Of Jesus Nature! (Weary!)
 - But - Jesus Would Not Let:
 - Any Of His Human Limitations:
 - Get In The Way Of His:
 - Divine Purpose & Pursuit Of That Woman!
 - And - This Is Still The Kind Of Savior We Have In Jesus!
 - A Savior On A Great Pursuit!
 - And He Will Not Let Anything Get In His Way:
 - To Save The Sinner He Sets His Sights Upon!
 - But - We Also See:
 - The Greatness Of Christ's Patience!
 - Once Again - He Showed His True Nature:
 - As God The Son - Who Is:

- “Ready To Pardon, Gracious And Merciful, Slow To Anger, And Of Great Kindness!”
(Nehemiah 9:17)
- In Spite Of That Woman’s Clear:
 - Disregard & Disobedience & Disbelief & Disdain & Demand Of Him!
- Jesus Lovingly & Patiently:
 - Brought Her To:
 - His World & Spiritual Understanding Of Things!
 - And - Once Again - This Is Still The Kind Of Savior We Have In Jesus!
 - “What A Friend We Have In Jesus, All Our Sins And Grievs To Bear!”
 - He Is A Savior With Great Patience:
 - Toward Us All!
 - And - If This Does Not Draw You Closer To Him:
 - What Will?
 - But - We Also Find Here:
- The Greatness Of Christ’s Persistence!
 - As The Samaritan Woman:
 - Continued To Resist & Reject:
 - The Words of Christ:
 - How Did He Respond?
 - Did He Just Give Up On Her?
 - No - His Grace Toward Her:
 - Proved Irresistible!
 - He Was Not About To Let Her Go!
 - He Appealed To Her:
 - In Different Ways:
 - To Bring Her To Faith In Him!
 - He First Appealed To:
 - Her Compassion & Humanity:
 - By Saying - “Give Me To Drink!” (4:7)
 - But She Refused His Request:
 - Showing She Had None!
 - Jesus Then Appealed To:
 - Her Curiosity - In 4:10:
 - By Offering Her “Living Water!”
 - But She Rejected His Offer!
 - He Then Appealed To:
 - Her Cravings - In 4:13-14:
 - “Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: /
But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst!”
 - But - She Still Resisted:
 - The True Nature Of His Offer!
 - Yet - Through It All:
 - Jesus Persisted In His Pursuit:
 - Of This Precious But Lost Soul!
 - And - This Is Still The Kind Of Savior We Have In Jesus!
 - He Is A Savior With Great Persistence!
 - Who Breaks Down Barriers:
 - To Reach Those Who Will Be Saved!
 - But - Even Further - We See Here:
 - The Greatness Of Christ’s Provision!
 - The Water Jesus Was Talking About:
 - Was The Water Of His Own Spirit!
 - Later - In 7:38 - Jesus Would Say Something Similar:
 - “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow
rivers of living water!”
 - But John Explains *There* What Jesus Meant Even *Here*:
 - In 7:39 - “But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should
receive!”
 - If That Samaritan Woman Would Have Just Believed!

- The Water Jesus Offered:
 - Was A Fountain Of Spiritual Water:
 - That Would Give Her:
 - “Everlasting Life!”
- And - This Is Still The Kind Of Savior We Have In Jesus!

Conclusion:

1. And - This Is The Kind Of Savior:
 - We *Still* Need - Because Of:
 - The Kind Of Sinners:
 - We *Still* Are!
2. Here Jesus Described Salvation:
 - To The Samaritan Woman;
 - In Terms Of Living Water!
 - So That:
 - The Way *To* Salvation:
 - Could Also Be Put In Such A Simple, Earthly Way:
 - So That Anyone Might Be Saved!
3. Because - Jesus Describes Faith Itself:
 - As Just A “Drink!”
 - And Just About Everyone:
 - Can Drink!
 - Its As Simple & As Natural:
 - As Breathing & As Seeing & As Hearing!
4. My Desire Through This Message Today:
 - Is For You To See:
 - The Kind Of Sinner You Are!
 - And Just How Hard & Stubborn & Resistant:
 - You Are To The Things Of God:
 - In Your Natural Condition!
 - So - You Can Personalize The Words Of John Newton:
 - “I Am A Great Sinner!”
 - But Then - I Also Want You To See:
 - The Kind Of Savior You Have!
 - And How Good & How Great Jesus Is:
 - To Give You His “Living Water!”
 - If You Just Go To Him:
 - And “Drink!”
 - Jesus Alone Will Quench:
 - Your Spiritual Thirst!
 - Jesus Alone Can Revive & Refresh:
 - Your Tired & Weary Soul!
3. “I Have A Great Savior!” - John Newton Declared!
 - And - He Is Still This Kind Of Savior!
 - So - Stop Resisting:
 - The Work Of The Lord In Your Life!
 - And Find Everlasting Refreshment:
 - In His Water Of Life!
 - Remember These Two Things:
 - “I Am A Great Sinner, And That Christ Is A Great Savior!”

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