John 4:1-42—Jesus & the Samaritan Woman

Setting the Scene (verses 1-6)
1. Read 2 Kings 17:24-29. What do we learn about the people who lived in Samaria in the time of Jesus?

2. Why did Jesus leave Judea?

3. Most Jews avoided traveling through Samaria. Why does John say that Jesus “had to go through Samaria”?

The Samaritan Woman at the Well (verses 7-26)
4. What was unusual (for that time period) with Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan women at the well?


6. According to verses 10 and 14, how is this living water obtained?

7. The woman may have been trying to change the subject from her numerous husbands by bringing up the proper place to worship. What did Jesus mean by His response that “true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth”?

8. Jesus’ conversation with the woman is a good example of witnessing. Which verses illustrate these principles of evangelism:
   a. Start with small talk
   b. Refuse to argue
   c. Arouse interest
   d. Stir the conscience
   e. Give the solution to the problem of sin
9. The woman’s attitude toward Jesus gradually changes. How is this shown in the expressions she uses to speak to Him or about Him:
   a. Verse 9:
   b. Verse 11:
   c. Verse 19:
   d. Verse 25 and 29:

**The Disciples Return (verses 27-38)**

10. What does the woman do in verses 28-29 and what is so amazing about her interactions with the townspeople?

11. Nicodemus misunderstood what it meant to be born again. The Samaritan woman misunderstood living water. What do the disciples now misunderstand in verses 32-33?

12. See 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 for another reference to sowing and reaping. Jesus sensed a great harvest and the urgency for the disciples to be ready to reap. Who is this harvest and who might have done the sowing?

**Many Believe (verses 39-42)**

13. Many Samaritans became believers. Why did they say that they became believers?
2 Kings 17:24-29  
24 And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.  
25 And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the Lord. Therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them.  
26 So the king of Assyria was told, “The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land.”  
27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there, and let him go and dwell there and teach them the law of the god of the land.”  
28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the Lord.  
29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived.

Isaiah 55:1  
Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

John 7:37-39  
37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Revelation 21:6  
And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9  
6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

Resources:
- NIV (map from p. 1611) and ESV Study Bibles
- John—God’s Word for Today (CPH)
Jesus in Judea and Samaria

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:43-44). Here Jesus was anointed in the house of Simon the Leper (Mt 26:6). It was also the scene of the ascension (Lk 24:50-51).

The resurrected Jesus appeared to two people walking to Emmaus, and he ate with them there (Lk 24:13).

Jesus healed a blind man here (Mt 20:29), and called Zacchaeus down from a tree (Lk 9:1). The Good Samaritan helped a traveler en route here (Lk 10:30).

Caesarea

The most important port in Judea in NT times.

Mt. Gerizim

The mountain referred to by the Samaritan woman at the well as the worship center for the Samaritans (Jn 4:20-23).

Here Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman, at Jacob's well (Jn 4:5).

John the Baptist baptized here (Jn 3:23). It was also the probable location of John's ministry.

Most important Biblical city. Jesus was crucified here as predicted (Mt 16:21; Mk 10:33; Lk 18:31).

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Jericho

Miles

Kms

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