

Third Sunday in Lent – 2023

Saturday, 3/11 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/12 at 9:00



Text: John 4:5-26 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: There are two major categories of people in the world:

- Many are in dead in their sins and separated from God, *but they are unaware of their dreadful condition.*
- Others are alive in Christ, *but they keep thinking about their sins and keep wondering if they are forgiven.*

In this sermon, based on **John chapter 4**, *Jesus wants us to understand that His love ❤️ is greater than our sin!*

1. **The Setting:** [Jesus had been in Jerusalem talking to Nicodemus; now, *as He headed for Galilee*] ⁵ **...He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph;** ⁶ **and Jacob's well was there. So, Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour** [*probably around noon*]. // The shortest path from Judea to Galilee was through Samaria, *but most Jews took the long way to avoid Samaria. Why?* Samaritans arose from Assyrian Gentiles intermarrying with Jews about 700 years earlier. But Jesus, on purpose, *traveled through Samaria.*

2. **Jesus Loved the Samaritan Woman:** ⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) // The woman was by herself; *she was probably despised by the other women because she was living in sin.* But Jesus did not avoid her or judge her; instead, ▶He cared about her, ▶He talked to her. *Jesus wants us to do the same!*

3. **The Living Water:**

- a. Jesus made her curious: ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” // Jesus was thirsty, and the woman had come to draw water, *so Jesus continued the water-theme.* The Messiah, *though not yet known to the woman,* moved the conversation from *drinking water* to *living water!*
- b. She gave a practical response: ¹¹ She said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?” // Like Nicodemus from last week, *the woman kept thinking physically, not spiritually.* So, Jesus kept pointing her beyond the physical.
- c. Jesus explained His great offer: ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water [from Jacob’s well] will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of

the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” // Jesus made His offer *so attractive* – “never thirst; ...well of water... eternal life.” All such things were *far different* than her daily grind to draw water from Jacob’s well.

- d. The woman was still thinking about regular water:
¹⁵ The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.” // She wanted what Jesus was offering, but, still, *she didn’t understand the GREATNESS of His offer.*

4. **Jesus’ Knew All About the Woman:** [So He turned the conversation to her personal life:] **¹⁶ He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”** // Since Jesus **loved** ❤️ **her**, He stated her exact situation to ♦get her attention, ♦help her to see her great need, and ♦bring her to repentance (*godly sorrow and saving faith*).

5. **The Woman Wondered about the Two Worship Locations:** **¹⁹ The woman said to [Jesus], “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet [since You know personal things about me]. ²⁰ “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain [Mt. Gerizim], and you people [you Jews] say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”** // Why two locations? As Gentiles were barred from entering the Jerusalem temple, *so were Samaritans* – which is one reason why they worshiped at Mt. Gerizim.

6. **Jesus Explained the Bigger Picture:** ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews [since the Son of God put on Jewish flesh and blood]. ²³ But an hour is coming, and now is [since the Messiah is here], when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” // Forty years from that time, the Jerusalem temple would be destroyed. **The focus then and today should be worshipping “in spirit and truth.”** What does that mean? **In spirit** – means we are engaged: listening, thinking, repenting, believing! **In truth** – means we believe all of God’s word, which is truth (John 17:17).
7. **The Great Reveal:** ²⁵ The woman said to [Jesus], “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” [Jesus had just declared *some very amazing things* to her!] ²⁶ [Then] **Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”** // In other words, **I am the Promised Messiah!** Reading further in **John 4**, the woman went back into town and told others about Jesus, *then many Samaritans believed in Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus! As You showed love for the sinful Samaritan woman, *so You love everyone – even us!* Help us to rejoice in knowing You and being fully forgiven; then, *may our joy overflow to others, and may they also trust in You!*

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