

## I. REVIEW & INTRODUCTION

### A. Last week, we saw Jesus in Jerusalem

1. **After His finished in Jerusalem He went back up North to Galilee, but He had a stop to make on the way (look at a map of Israel: there are three sections [provinces]: Judea, Samaria and Galilee).**
  - a. The Jews normally took the long way, avoiding Samaria, to get to Galilee.
  - b. This is because the Jews hated the Samaritans. Who were the Samaritans? Remember in the OT when Israel (the N. Kingdom) was taken captive? Well, the King of Assyria put foreign people in the land of Israel but lions attacked them. The King gave them priests to teach them to worship the "god of that land." But their "worship" was a mixture of Golden Calves and foreign gods.
  - c. In fact, at one time the Samaritans had built a temple on Mt. Gerizim. But the Jews destroyed it.
  - d. So the Samaritans and Jews worshipped different gods in a different place and had different laws and customs. They would have nothing to do with one another.
2. **But, Jesus did not go the normal way home because He had something important to do in Samaria.**
  - a. There was a woman in Samaria who needed to be saved, and Jesus had come to save her.
  - b. But before He did that, He had to meet her, and to talk to her about salvation.

### B. It was a long journey from Jerusalem to Samaria. Jesus and His disciples had been walking on hot, dusty roads for many hours. Jesus was tired, hungry and thirsty. Then He spotted a well. A place to sit and rest!

1. **Jesus told His disciples to go into the nearby village to buy food. Soon a woman arrived carrying a water pot. She had come to draw water from the well. It was noon.**
  - a. Noon was the hottest part of the day. This woman chose to come at this time because it was quiet and she did not like to meet the other women there. This was because she had a sinful way of life.
  - b. When Jesus saw her coming, He said to her, "Give me to drink" (John 4:7).
  - c. The woman was surprised. She knew that Jesus was a Jew, and here was a Jewish man asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water!
2. **Jesus ignored her surprise. Instead, He said, "If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith unto thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" (4:10).**
  - a. Living water? But how can you get living water from this well," she said. "You do not even have a water pot to draw with, and the well is deep. How can you give living water?"
  - b. Do you not know, she continued, that Jacob gave us this well? And he drank from it, and his children and his cattle? Are you better than Jacob? Who are you?

## II. LIVING WATER FOR THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

### A. The Samaritan woman thought that Jesus meant normal drinking water. She did not understand yet that He was speaking about salvation from sin.

1. **Jesus explained how wonderful living water is.**
  - a. When you drink normal water your thirst is satisfied only for a short time, and you have to drink again.
  - b. But the living water which Jesus gives is so wonderful that the one who drinks it never thirsts again. In fact, says Jesus, "the water that I shall give [him] shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).
  - c. Water which lasts forever! Water which is like a well of water unto everlasting life! What a gift that it!
2. **The woman wanted that water but she still did not understand it.**
  - a. She thought it was normal water, but that it lasted longer than normal water.
  - b. She was thinking about her daily walk to the well in the hot sun: if I could have the "living water" I would not have to come here anymore. My life would be so much better.
  - c. Jesus' answer was: "Go, call thy husband, and come hither" (John 4:16)

### B. Jesus said this to make the Samaritan woman desire the living water of salvation, because we can only desire salvation from our sins *when God makes us thirsty for it.*

1. **The answer of the Samaritan woman was, "I have no husband."**
  - a. She was telling the truth but there was more to it than that. Why did she have no husband? Jesus knew.
  - b. The truth was, the Samaritan woman had had five husbands and the man she was with was not her husband. The Samaritan woman was living a life of adultery *and Jesus knew all about it!*
  - c. Jesus knows all about our lives. He knows our sins. He knows everything because He is God.
2. **Finally, Jesus revealed Himself to the woman: He is the Messiah, the Savior promised in the OT.**
  - a. What wonderful news for a sinful woman! A Savior from sin who gives living water!

- b. Excited the woman runs back to the village to tell the people there, “Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (John 4:29).
- c. The men of the village came to see Jesus and they too believed that He is the Christ: “We know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world” (John 4:42). *Not a Savior of Jews only, but also of Samaritans, also of us!*

### III. REJECTION OF JESUS BY THE PEOPLE OF NAZARETH

**A. When Jesus came into Galilee, the people were excited to see Him. But why were they excited? They had heard about His miracles. That was the problem: the people loved His miracles, but they did not love Him and receive His teachings of the Father.**

**1. Jesus went into Cana of Galilee, the town where He had performed His 1<sup>st</sup> miracle: water to wine.**

- a. In Cana a certain nobleman had come all the way from Capernaum, a city of two days journey.
- b. This man had a very serious problem: his son was very sick and was very near death in Capernaum.
- c. The father loved his little son and he had heard about Jesus of Nazareth so he asked Jesus to come with him to heal his son. Jesus did not come with Him. But He said, “Go thy way, thy son liveth” (John 4:50).

**2. What you have done? Would you have said, “No, Jesus, you have to come! You have to come now! You must put your hands on my son & heal him.” But the nobleman did not say that. He believed the word.**

- a. The nobleman’s son is many miles away, two days away, and the man cannot call or check. He just believes and goes on his way.
- b. So great is the power of Jesus that with a word He can heal a little boy lying sick many miles away.
- c. Later as the nobleman is on the way home to Capernaum, his servants meet him: “Master, master. Your son is well again!” The nobleman asked, “When?” and the servants told him the time. *That was exactly at the time when Jesus had said, “Go thy way, thy son liveth!”* The nobleman, his family and all his servants believed in Jesus because of this great miracle.

**B. But most people in Galilee were not like the believing nobleman from Capernaum. We see this when Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue there.**

**1. This was the town where everyone knew Jesus; He had grown up there; He had played in their streets; worked in the carpentry shop; all His neighbors were there.**

- a. In every Jewish town there was a synagogue where people met for worship. Their worship was singing, prayer, reading the Bible and listening to preaching.
- b. We read that it was Jesus’ custom to go to the synagogue every week: that should be our custom too.
- c. On that occasion Jesus stood up to read the Scripture and He turned to Isaiah 61:1-2. When He finished reading, He sat down and said, “This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:21).

**2. The people of Nazareth scoffed, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”**

- a. Who does Jesus think He is, saying, that Isaiah 61 is talking about Him? We know Him. He’s just a carpenter’s son. There is nothing special about *Him*.
- b. But Jesus said that He is the Messiah and He explained to them His work of salvation: He came to preach the Gospel to the poor [they did not think they were poor]; to heal the broken hearted [their hearts were not broken over their sins]; to preach deliverance to the captives [they thought they were free]; recovering of sight to the blind [they were not blind, they said] and to set at liberty them that are bruised. *But the people of Nazareth did not see their need of such salvation. They were not like the Samaritans who saw their sin and were thirsty for salvation. This message made them angry!*
- c. So angry were they that they ran at Jesus, pushed him out of their city and tried to throw Him off a cliff!

### IV. THE MIRACLE AT THE SEA OF GALILEE

**A. In Galilee there was a large lake. It was called the Sea of Galilee or the Sea of Tiberius.**

**1. On that sea many fishermen worked to catch fish.**

- a. Four of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen: Peter, Andrew, James and John.
- b. These four men had been working all night and they had caught nothing. But Jesus said to Peter, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught” (Luke 5:4).

**2. Peter was a fisherman; Jesus was a carpenter. Peter knew that Jesus’ command made no sense.**

- a. Master, we have been working all night and have caught nothing but because you say so, we will.
- b. That is faith: we do whatever God says even when it does not make any sense to us.

**B. The result was that they caught so many fish that the net broke.**

- 1. Peter called to the other ship. James and John came to help. But there were so many fish that the ship almost sank with the weight of them.
- 2. When Peter saw what Jesus had done (for He had power over the fish) He fell on His knees: “Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Jesus said. “Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men!” (Luke 5:8-10).