

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #41

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

1

The Gospel of John

- **28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people. 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”**
- Do you think she might be just a little excited? For her whole life she had heard people talking about and predicting the appearance of the Messiah.
- When she gets to the town, she no longer seeks to avoid people – she wants everyone to meet who she has met but given her status in the village caution is exercised.

2

2

The Gospel of John

- If you look carefully, you will see she does not just tell the people of Sychar that she has met the long-awaited Messiah.
- No, she frames her witness in the form of a question - **“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”**
- She knows the people in town would frown on the very idea that a woman of her reputation would be the one to whom the Messiah would reveal himself. 😊

3

3

The Gospel of John

So, picture this – the Jews were the people with the reputation for being favored by God. What we see in this text is a fringe people, the Samaritans, whose culture was but somewhat cognizant of God and his promises to mankind. These **“low life, half breed dogs”** are the first to hear from Jesus’ lips who he really is!

4

The Gospel of John

- To their credit the Samaritans did believe in and read the Torah – however, they had made some changes to the text that was given to Moses.
- Specifically, they changed the mountain where Abraham was to offer Isaac from Mt Moriah to Mt Gerazim – this of course was the source of the **“where to worship”** debate.
- So, while they may have had good intentions, changing the text of the Bible is always a bad idea.

5

5

The Gospel of John

- How did this woman know that being able to know her history without ever having met her was evidence of his omniscience which is only ever associated with God?”
- Who told her that? It is true, so we know it wasn’t the work of the enemy – that nugget of truth, an attribute only true of God, surely had come from God himself.
- **This woman had spent lots of her life chasing after men – she was not soaking in the Torah, but the Holy Spirit was preparing her with bits and pieces of truth probably from a child.**

6

6

The Gospel of John

This woman lived in the Old Testament economy before Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given, so how can I be so sure the Holy Spirit was the one seeing to it that she would have a chance to be saved?

So the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days shall be 120 years." Genesis 6:3

7

The Gospel of John

- We tend to think the lost around us know nothing spiritually because they avoid God whenever they can – **the Holy Spirit prepares hearts in ways we do not know.**
- Things have been said to them, things have been ingrained by our actions, and some things come in the human DNA.
- The Samaritan culture was not as scripturally focused as the Jewish culture, but neither were they completely closed off to the knowledge of God's work of redemption.

8

8

The Gospel of John

How many people are in your orbit that care little for organized religion, but would like to hear more about Jesus?

9

The Gospel of John

If you think wanting to hear more about Jesus is a common trait of the unsaved – my question for you is “based on what?”.

10

The Gospel of John

May the cry of our hearts be, “Open the hearts of the unsaved around me just as you did for Lydia in Philippi”.

11

The Gospel of John

- What does it mean to identify Jesus as the Christ? (verse 29)
- In 1st century Palestine the name Jesus was probably as common as the name John – even today, how many boys in America are named, “Joshua”. (The English form of the Hebrew Yeshua)
- When John writes, “**Whoever believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God**” (1st John 5:1) he is not pointing his readers to just any “Jesus”, but to “Jesus of Nazareth”.

12

12

The Gospel of John

John 4:31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."

13

The Gospel of John

- "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."
- The most satisfying thing for Jesus was to do the will of God and accomplish his work.
- May I remind us that God's will starts and ends for us at our becoming just like Jesus – we could lead thousands of people into Heaven and still not hear, "well done".

14

14

The Gospel of John

May that which drives us day to day be our awareness of Romans 8:29 –

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

15

The Gospel of John

For the one who is born again it is impossible to live a satisfying life without placing a priority on finding and doing the will of God. From Jesus' own words we must be about his work, or we will have a perpetual unmet need. Nothing short of that will ever satiate the hunger that is present in those who know Jesus. I am not sure this hunger ever subsides, nor would I want it to.

16

The Gospel of John

May we shed this idea that getting saved is the pinnacle of the Christian life as though that is all that matters. Deliver us from teaching that says, "all that matters is that we get to Heaven one day" while forgetting that we will all give a face-to-face account to Jesus regarding what we did with what we were given.

17

The Gospel of John

If you want to measure the quality of your life in Christ, let it not be how many we witnessed to, how many acts of service we did, and certainly not how much we gave to his work. No, but let it be how much have we been conformed to the image of the Son of God.

18



Questions?

19

19
