

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson 1

Love

The Woman At The Well

John 4:1-42

Passover had come to an end and Jesus left Jerusalem with His disciples for the countryside of Judea. Along the way, Jesus' disciples baptized many who repented of their sins. Not long after this, Jesus and His disciples traveled to Galilee. The trip from Judea to Galilee was about a three-day journey when traveling through Samaritan territory. But, because Jews looked down on Samaritans, they wouldn't pass through their territory extending the journey to six days. Jesus and His disciples did travel through Samaria and at Sychar He met "the woman at the well."

Introduction

Samaria was located in the middle of Israel, Judea being to the south and Galilee to the north. When the Assyrians captured the city of Samaria in 721 B.C., they deported many Israelites and populated the area with foreigners captured from other lands. The Israelites, who remained, intermarried with the foreigners. When the exiled Israelites returned to Samaria, they did not accept the offspring of the intermarried as true Israelites. It was believed that this mixed race did not adhere to the same rules of Judaism as the people in Judea and Galilee. Consequently, the lack of acceptance of this race brought about an intense hatred between the Samaritans and the Jews.

Jesus had no problem with the Samaritan people and chose to travel through Samaria. This is a story about a Samaritan woman Jesus met at a

well. He offers her water that cannot be seen and will give everlasting life.

Progression of Events

A tall glass of water is so delicious. It tastes so good when you are thirsty. Water will quench your thirst but only until the next time you are thirsty. Jesus offers us a special kind of water that cannot be seen. Drinking His water will satisfy your thirst forever. His is the water of everlasting life. In Sychar, Jesus met a woman who needed this living water.

- Jesus had been preaching in Judea and decided to return to Galilee. The Bible says He "needed to go through Samaria" (John 4:4). Jesus was on a mission to meet a certain woman at a well.
- While the disciples went to the city to buy food, Jesus sat by a well to rest.
- While Jesus was resting, a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus asked for a drink. The woman said to Jesus, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" The woman was surprised because the custom of the time did not allow men and women who were strangers to have public conversations—especially between Jews and Samaritans.
- Jesus answered the woman, "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” (John 4:10). The woman had no idea who she was talking to. She didn’t realize she was speaking to the Son of God. Explain the “gift” Jesus was willing to give to the woman. Did she have to earn the gift or was it freely given by grace?

- Jesus, the Son of God, loves everyone. He does not care about race or color. The Bible says, “God is love” (I John 4:8).
- The woman answers Jesus, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?” The woman misunderstood what Jesus said. She thought the “living water” was in the deepest part of the well and He had nothing to draw it up with. But, if He could bring up the water she would not have to return to the well each day. She was interested in what Jesus had to say because she thought it would make her life easier. If this were true, following Christ would be done for the wrong reasons. Living a Christian life is a challenge. In order to make change on the inside, we must learn to deal with problems God’s way.
- Jesus answered her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” What is the gift Jesus is offering?

- Before Jesus could give the woman “living water” she had to realize she was a sinner. Everyone who comes into the world is a sinner (Romans 5:12). He challenged her by instructing her to bring her husband. She suddenly realized that Jesus knew everything about her. She quickly tried to change the subject.
- “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship”(John 4:20). This statement comes from a time when the Jews would not allow the Samaritans to help rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans were angry and so built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim. Her comment is about whether a person should worship God in Jerusalem or in Samaria on Mt. Gerizim.
- Jesus quickly informed her that the place of worship is not as important as the attitude of the worshiper. Jesus said, “God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). This means that because “God is Spirit” He is not limited to one physical place. He is everywhere and may be worshiped anytime.
- When Jesus told her “salvation is of the Jews,” He meant that the whole world would receive salvation and would be blessed (Genesis 12:3) through the promised Jewish Messiah. The woman at the well knew about the promised Messiah. She had no idea that she was talking to Him. (John 4:25).

Climax

- Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He” (John 4:26).
 - The woman left Jesus, leaving her water pot behind. She went into the city and told the men to “Come see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” (John 4:29) Did Jesus receive the response of trust, faith and belief from the woman?
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- Her testimony about what Jesus said to her brought about what in her community?
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Conclusion

Meanwhile, Jesus’ disciples returned and encouraged Him to eat (John 4:31-38). Jesus instructed the disciples that His desire was to do the will of God. We not only receive strength and nourishment through prayer, Bible Study and attending church, but also what we give. Jesus gave a parallel between our bodies thirsting for physical water and our soul thirsting for spiritual water. The Bible is written to satisfy our thirsty soul. We must study the Word of God and believe in our savior, Jesus Christ. He is the living Word. Jesus was more than a friend to the Samaritan woman He became her Savior.

The Samaritan woman knew she was a sinner. She could not see in herself any value or worth therefore, why would God? She found it hard to believe she was loved. Jesus spoke the good news to her. He told her God seeks people to worship Him. God wants to welcome all into His family to become worshippers of Him in spirit and in truth.

Love

The first fruit of the Spirit is love. Jesus showed the Samaritan woman love. Jesus was not selective about who He would love. He loves all people. Going to Samaria and speaking with the woman at the well broke down all walls of prejudice. God’s love is not meant for a select few. As a Christian, you should embrace every person with love just as God loves everyone.

Memory Verse

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (I John 4:8).

Answer the following questions:

1. Why didn't the Jews like the Samaritans?

2. Why did Jesus choose to go through Samaria and not around it?

3. Describe the "living water" that Jesus talked about.

4. Are we all sinners? Can you give a scripture that backs up your answer?

5. What did Jesus do to become a friend of the woman at the well?

6. Why would it be shocking that Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well?

7. Why would Jesus take the time to talk to the woman?

8. Because Jesus took the time to speak to the woman, what good things happened?

9. Explain how God wants all of us to worship Him.

10. What is the first fruit of the Spirit?

11. How many fruit of the Spirit are there?

12. Where in the Bible can you find the fruit of the Spirit?

13. Who is the author of the fruit of the Spirit?

14. Explain God is spirit.

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Lesson 1 Map

