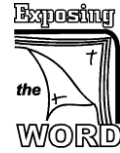




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8- A Well, a Woman and a Witness 4:1-42

We have heard that evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread. God uses the witness of the saved to bring others to faith in Christ. Recall the words of *Romans 10:13ff* ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?... 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

The place we visit today in our journey in John is an example of this. We will see a woman who has Christ verified in her heart, witnesses to others and faith begins to spring forth in their heart then He is verified to them. We see faith passed from one to another. We see verification of the Messiah into the hearts of men and women.

I- A Well:

Jesus journeyed from Jerusalem and the area of Judea north toward Galilee. There were two possible routes to take. One would go around the area of Samaria and one directly through it. The area of Samaria was one that was often avoided especially when someone was traveling south to Jerusalem. Jesus later in His ministry experienced a less than warm welcome because He was headed to Jerusalem. *Luke 9:51-53* ***And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his***

face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

But this time Jesus was going north. Still many times the Jews would cross the Jordan River and travel on the other side to avoid going through Samaria. I remind us all that the mission of Jesus was to seek and save the lost. He must needs go through Samaria. That was where the mission was at that time.

Joh 4:1ff ***When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. 4 And he must needs go through Samaria. 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.***

Jesus comes to the wells that provided relief for travelers and water for the residents. This particular well was outside the city itself and the city had other water sources.

Jesus sits at the well early in the evening, if in fact John used Roman time.

II- A Woman at the Well:

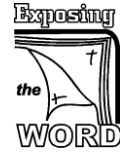
As I have previously stated this woman comes out of town to a well less frequently used by town people. She probably would have had to walk between ½ and 1 hour to get there. Some speculate that she came there because she was not well accepted and liked by the town people because of her past.



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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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Joh 4:7ff There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. 11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

The woman comes to the well and Jesus asks for a drink. This amazed the woman that He, a Jew, would even speak to her. Jesus tells her about living water and that she would never thirst again with it.

One application of this is that she had tried all the things of the world and they had not satisfied and now He offered her another way.

III- Verification of Messiah to the Woman:

What does it take to make someone aware that Jesus is indeed the Messiah? It is

certainly different for each individual as God deals with us.

Joh 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

This woman after Jesus told her things about herself that He would only have known as a prophet recognized that He was indeed a prophet. This was not a complete revelation of who He was but only a starting point.

IV- Christ Witness I AM He:

Jesus is going to give a greater witness to her and move her from a small belief to the knowledge of who He is.

Joh 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. 25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

This woman had been taught and understood that Messiah was coming and



that He would, as she said, *tell us all things*. There are some who say that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah. This is one instance that is undeniable that He did claim such for Himself.

V- Witness of the Woman:

Entering the scene at that time was the disciples. Notice the reaction of the woman as they return.

Joh 4:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? 28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

This woman immediately leaves her pots and goes and bears witness of Jesus as Messiah. Notice what she told the men in the city. She told them what He had said to her and why she believed. One beggar telling another where she found bread. No great speech or dissertation about some theology but simply what had happened to her.

VI- Time for the Harvest:

The disciples, not quit knowing what to make of the situation, encourage Jesus to eat. Jesus used this as a teaching time.

Joh 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. 33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. 35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the

fields; for they are white already to harvest. 36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. 37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. 38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

Perhaps the scene unfolding was the men coming by this time from the city toward them. Jesus could have swept His hand across the scene and said look at the harvest, it is ripe. Men are ready for Messiah to be introduced to them. Go do your part that I send you to do.

VII- Messiah Verified to Samaritans:

The woman, of sorted past and present, testified and God used the testimony to draw others.

Joh 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. 40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his own word; 42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

After the men come they spend some time with Jesus and hear Him speak. The seed of faith that was planted by the woman's testimony springs forth into faith. Messiah was verified into the hearts of the individuals. Indeed God is changing the world one person at a time.