

Ep 1-20 - The Samaritans Believe

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. Last time, we saw the Lord's encounter with a Samaritan woman at the well, and His discussion with her. We saw that He revealed to her what He never said so clearly to the Israelites: that He was the Messiah. Now, we will continue this story, and see what He taught His disciples on this occasion.

III. John 4:16-26. The Lord and the Woman.

- A. Verse 16. He starts to show her the kind of water He means.
- B. Verses 17-18. Her answer is now guarded. Why she was an outcast? Living alone was almost impossible for a woman then. The Lord already knows.
- C. Verse 19. Now she realizes He comes from God. Rises above physical thirst.
- D. Verse 20. Changes the subject. She asks her deepest religious question.
- E. Verse 21. Soon she will worship God, but not in either place!
- F. Verse 22. Samaritans had worshipped in ignorance since Assyrian captivity. All religions not equal! Salvation of the Jews then. Not today (Acts 28:28.) Samaritans were half-Jewish, now offered salvation.
- G. Verse 23. "The Father" points to His identity. "Hour is coming, and now is" a parenthesis of John. Now we worship in spirit and truth. "Spirit" means mind. True worship today based on right thinking and true belief.
- H. Verse 24. (John?) God's basic essence spirit, not a man. Why worship like this
- I. Verse 25. Putting Him off? Or leading Him to reveal Himself?
- J. Verse 26. Reveals Himself as Messiah and "I am" (EHYH in Hebrew). Clearer than He ever said this in Israel! The truth hidden from them.

IV. John 4:27-38. The Lord teaches the disciples.

- A. Verse 27. Talmud forbids a Rabbi to talk to a woman, plus a Samaritan! Yet they dare not question their Master.
- B. Verse 28. So excited she leaves everything behind! *Anthopos* could mean "people," though she probably had easier access to men. All she met.
- C. Verse 29. Exaggerating? She might consider her marriages most important thing about her. She didn't question this anymore, but wanted them to ask it.
- D. Verse 30. Her testimony leads them to see for themselves.
- E. Verse 31. The disciples want to get back to lunch.
- F. Verse 32. Revealing himself to lost Samaritans was more important than food, and would sustain Him.
- G. Verse 33. They miss his point, thinking someone else may have fed Him.
- H. Verse 34. Explains His figure. May this be true of us as well!
- I. Verse 35. Four months before harvest, but these people ready! Not necessarily true today. Fields are not always ready for harvesting.
- J. Verse 36. Wages = reward. Sower different from reaper, but both rejoice. The harvest is eonian life.
- K. Verse 37. The one who sows the seeds of truth often not the one who reaps.
- L. Verse 38. Who labored over them before? The disciples to reap their labor.

V. John 4:39-42. The Samaritans and the Lord.

- A. Verse 39. They believe by the woman's testimony. Remember John's purpose!
- B. Verse 40. Wanted Him to stay. A recommendation for this town!
- C. Verse 41. Our purpose in teaching: they will believe because of the Bible, rather than just because of our own teaching.
- D. Verse 42. All excited like woman! Fellowship with her. Christ=Messiah=Anointed One, Savior of the world. Do we believe it?

VI. Conclusion. The Samaritans learned the truth that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior. We can learn from the testimony of their faith. Do we know and believe this?