

## Session 6

July 7, 2019

### “THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: FAITH WORTH SHARING”

#### John 4:10-18, 28-30

There is no faith like saving faith; that willful surrender to both the *promises* of Christ to save and the *provisions* of Christ that secured that salvation.

While salvation (regeneration on our side; justification on God’s side) occurs the instant we believe, there is a process that gets us to that point. That process involves *facts* (the understanding of things we need to know) and *faith* (the acceptance of things we cannot know).

John 4 relates the amazing encounter between Jesus and the woman at the well. This Samaritan woman is no pushover! She is not angry or mean, but she has a sharp tongue and a snarky attitude. Little did she know that she was smarting off to the Son of God. In the exchange, Jesus moved her along in the process, confronting her with facts, and inviting her to faith.

**Information (vv. 1-15).** The story is as intriguing as it is familiar. Jesus was finished in the region of Judea and had turned north, returning to Galilee. In between was Samaria, the distasteful home to the Samaritans, a distasteful people. That Jesus “must needs go” through Samaria was both geographical and providential. The favored route took longer but bypassed the detested mixed race. But Jesus had a divine appointment to keep. At about noon, Jesus rested at a well while His disciples went to find food. It was then and there that the woman showed up. It’s interesting that before offering anything to her, Jesus asked something of her (v. 7). This opened the door to introduce Himself. Information-wise, Jesus told her: there is such a thing as living water; it is God’s gift; He was the provider of it; it was spiritual in nature; and it represented eternal life (vv. 10, 14). Later, He informed her that: her current religious practice was incorrect; salvation came through the Jews; God’s desire was to be worshiped in spirit and in truth; the Messiah had come; and He was the Messiah (vv. 21-26).

**Confrontation (vv. 15-18).** The woman’s interest in “living water” (whatever that was!) came out in her simple but sarcastic request for it...ostensibly not to give her eternal life, but to ease her daily burden of drawing water. But before she could receive it, she had to deal with her sin. After all, repentance is absolutely essential for salvation (see Luke 13:5; Acts 20:21). By asking her to fetch her husband, Jesus accomplished two things. First, He made her come to grips with the immoral lifestyle she was living. Second, it opened her eyes to the realization that this Jewish man was more than just a weary traveler (v. 19).

**Clarification (vv. 19-25).** The woman’s declaration that Jesus was a prophet was a move in the right direction. But her comment regarding the right place to worship (Mt. Gerizim vs. Jerusalem) was likely meant to re-emphasize the differences between the two of them, and maybe even to pick a fight. His answer extended well beyond any “us vs. them” mentality. The place was not important...the attitude was. “In spirit” signified that worship was not found in external ceremony, but in the inward man. “In truth” means that worship must be based on God’s truth, not on man’s religious philosophy. Her statement “I know that Messiah is coming” (v. 25) demonstrated her faith thus far. She was on the right track!

**Identification (vv. 26-30).** While believing a Messiah was coming one day was necessary, it was insufficient to save. Salvation requires a personal encounter with Christ; repentance toward God and trusting Jesus Christ (and Him alone) for salvation. Paul put it this way: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9). Jesus made it clear that He was the promised Messiah (v. 26), and her reaction indicates she was convinced of it. Verses 39-42 demonstrate her bold witness that ultimately resulted in salvation for “many” (v. 41).