

## **GOD DEMANDS TRUE WORSHIP**

### **John 4:3-42**

**Introduction:** It was no accident that the Samaritan woman met Jesus. She was a vivid contrast to Nicodemus: a Samaritan, Nicodemus a Jew; she was a woman, he was a man; he was a religious leader, she was an adulteress, he was learned, she was ignorant; he was of high class, she of the lowest; he was wealthy, she was poor; he recognized Jesus as a man from God, she had no idea who Jesus was. This scripture is not so much about the Samaritan woman as it is the fact that Jesus announced that He was the MESSIAH and shows Jesus' style of evangelism. Let us see what lessons this text teaches.

#### **I. THE LESSON OF THE WELL (Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.)**

1. Jesus' popularity was upsetting the Jewish leaders.
2. Jesus went through Samaria for a particular reason. He had the well in mind.
3. The Samaritans and Jews hated one another.
4. Jesus and His disciples arrived tired, thirsty and hungry for they had walked some 30 miles.
5. Jesus was at the appointed place and at the exact time. (God always initiates contact).

#### **II. THE LESSON OF THE WOMAN (God is no respecter of persons.)**

1. The woman was an outcast for she had been married more than twice, the limit by law.
2. She was shocked that Jesus even talked to her for it was forbidden by law to do so.
3. Jesus was no respecter of persons. He came to save everyone, nobody is too bad for Jesus.

#### **III. THE LESSON OF THE WATER (Everyone who thirsts may come.)**

1. Jesus told her about the living water.
2. She became confused, not understanding spiritual things.
3. Still confused, she asked Jesus for some of His kind of water.
4. Jesus refused for she was not ready for it yet. Jesus was taking "steps" to help her understand.
5. Jesus brought out her sinful life.
6. She acknowledged her sinful life and began to see that Jesus was very different.

#### **IV. THE LESSON OF TRUE WORSHIP (Now is the accepted time and place.)**

1. She brought up the subject of the proper for worship and how to worship.
2. Jesus told her that soon it wouldn't matter where one worshipped.
3. Jesus revealed to her that the object of salvation is to make TRUE worshippers of the lost.
4. Jesus then revealed to this woman who He was - the Messiah.
5. The hour of her salvation had come and Jesus had led her step by step, opening her sinful heart to her own eyes, revealed Himself as the Messiah and she responded with faith.

#### **V. THE LESSON OF THE WITNESS (Jesus receives sinners.)**

1. The disciples arrived in time to hear Jesus' announcement of being the Messiah.
2. The woman had quickly left to go tell others about Jesus.
3. One of the first impulses new believers have is to tell others about Jesus.
4. The village was shocked at the change in this woman and her story.
5. They came to see for themselves.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. A woman was saved and led her whole village to see Jesus.
2. Meanwhile religious leaders grumbled about Jesus' actions.
3. Jesus had offered the same choices to the religious leaders, but they rejected Him.
4. God seeks people who will submit themselves to worship Him in spirit and truth.
5. No one can worship God who has not acknowledged, confessed and repented of their sins.
6. Anybody who will do so, will find a Savior anxious to receive, forgive and set free of sin.
7. Salvation is free, but it is not cheap.
8. Notice the process of being saved:
  - becoming aware of one's sins.
  - confessing one's sins.
  - believing in Jesus as being the only means of obtaining salvation.
  - accepting His Lordship in all things.