

WAITING BY A WELL OR A DISCUSSION WITH A SAMARITAN - JOHN 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus "had to pass through Samaria." (4:4)
 - 1. Not usual course for Jew, though most direct route to Galilee
 - 2. Jews avoided Samaria and its half-breed "dogs" like the plague!
- B. Still, Jesus made it a point to go right through Samaria.
 - 1. Necessity to go through Samaria lay in His mission, not geography.
 - 2. Jesus would do the will of His Father who sent Him Jhn 4:34
- C. In course of discussion with Samaritan woman beside an ancient well, and events immediately following, there are many lessons for us.

DISCUSSION:

I. HEAVEN INITIATES THE INTERACTION - VS 7

- A. A simple request, "Give Me a drink."
 - 1. It is God who offers the ultimate discourse with man Heb 1:1-2
 - 2. Man unworthy, even incapable, of approaching God without His invitation.
- B. Even what love we may have for Him is a response to His love 1Jhn 4:10,19

II. WE MUST REALIZE WHO JESUS IS - VS 10, 25-26

- A. For the sinner, blessing is dependent on this realization!
 - 1. "If you knew... He would have given you..." Vs 10
 - 2. Without recognizing Jesus as Son of God, there is no hope of eternal life He promises
 - 3. It is available only through Him Jhn 14:6
- B. Who is Jesus? Is he just a good man, philosopher, prophet, etc?
- C. By His claims, He is one of three:
 - 1. Liar - He deliberately deceived people by His claims. Jhn 7:12
 - a. If so, He deserved to die for perpetrating such a fraud.
 - b. Yet, His own words condemned lying and He opened Himself up to complete investigation by offering prophecies that foretold of Him. Jhn 8:44,45;
 - 2. Lunatic - was deceived Himself and actually believed what He said, though they were not true.
 - a. If so, He deserves not our wrath, but our pity.
 - b. Yet, He always spoke logically and without contradiction even when asked trick questions. Lk 20:20-40
 - c. How could the ravings of a deluded madman have such a positive effect on the world for 2000 years?
 - 3. If neither liar or lunatic, then He is who He claims to be: The Lord. John 4:25-26
 - a. If He is Lord, then He is truly Master and Supreme and ALL authoritative! Matt 28:18
 - b. And since it is so, we will be judged by Him Acts 17:30-31, John 12:48
 - 4. EVERY sinner MUST face Him for who He is!

- D. Even those following Him must reaffirm to themselves who He is. Matt 16:13-16 If we agree with Peter's words, do our words and actions affirm that truth?

III. WE MUST FACE OUR SIN - VS 15-18, 29, 39

- A. Not a one can say we are without sin. Rom 3:10-12, 1Jhn 1:8
- B. We must face sin for what it is (lawlessness, disobedience) and what it does (offends God, alienates from God, causes our death).
- C. When we are faced with our sinfulness, we see better the distinction between ourselves and a holy God Isa 6:1-5; Lk 5:8
- D. The reason is not just so that we can see our unworthiness, but rather the estrangement from God that sin causes and the ultimate remedy for it. Rom 5:8
- E. Also see not only what we are, but what we can become Jas 1:22-25; Jhn 8:31-32

IV. WE MUST MAKE A DECISION - VS 28-29, 39-42

- A. Simply the knowledge of our sin and remedy for it is not enough
 - 1. Must come a time for everyone when they have to make a decision concerning Christ and the remedy He offers.
 - 2. Samaritan woman's response was to share the news so that others could also believe.
- B. Some will choose to ignore or put off making a decision.
 - 1. The Athenians Acts 17:32
 - 2. However, by postponing or ignoring it, a decision is still made.
- C. But some will make the decision that leads to life Acts 2:36-41

CONCLUSION:

- A. Every one faces same situation as the Samaritan woman.
- B. We must respond to heaven's offer
 - 1. Recognize Jesus
 - 2. Face our sinfulness
 - 3. Make the right decision.

(from a sermon by Zeke Flores revised by jlh)