

“HALLELUJAH, I HAVE FOUND HIM!”

John 4:28-30; 39-42

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

The day was like every other day. The Samaritan Woman had come to the well, as she had done on so many other occasions, simply to draw water. She and her live in companion had no “living water” flowing near their home; therefore, being poor, she had to travel the distance to Jacob’s well in order to fill her water pot and take the water home for drinking and cooking.

She was not a godly woman; in fact, she had been quite immoral. That does not mean that she was not interested in spiritual matters. She had imbibed in the religious speculations of her times, as had the other Samaritans among whom she lived. She had definite opinions about the appropriateness of the religion of the Samaritan people in comparison with that of the Jewish people. She, like other Samaritans, had a vague hope for a coming Messiah—a great prophet like His predecessor Moses (Deut. 18), who would instruct them in religious truth and clear up all of the confusion.

However, this messianic hope had been clung to for generations, yet Messiah had not come. As most people, she lived day to day caught up in her mundane affairs, not spending a great deal of time thinking about serious religious truth.

She came just to get water—she left having found the person who was no longer the object of mere hopes, dreams, and speculations. She met a man who was more than a man—a man “who told her “everything that she had ever done”—a man that indeed proclaimed Himself as the Messiah!

****Maybe you have come here today merely to attend church. It is something that you have done many times before. You aren’t expecting anything amazing or unusual. However, the living God is here ready to meet you and to change your life forever! If you have never truly met him, He will give you something that is greater than mere water—something much greater than any Super Bowl that has ever been played—something greater than any house, job, material possession you have ever had. He can and will give you “living water”, salvation, eternal life, that will change your life forever!**

****If you have met him and have received His gift of life, maybe you have been living too much in the “humdrum” existence of daily life. Life no longer has much beauty and glory for you. You may even be “bored” or pessimistic about life’s prospects. You need once again to become reacquainted with your Messiah—your Savior—who will give you daily joy, peace, thrill, and purpose for living!**

YOU NEED TO LEAVE YOUR “WATER POT” AND RUN TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND TELL THEM THE EXCITING NEWS ABOUT YOUR SAVIOR!

I. LEAVE THE WATER POT (28)

He made such a deep impression on her that she left the water-pot in order to hurry as quickly as possible; she did not want to be hindered by the heavy pot. Many think that she left the pot so Jesus could drink; this may be a “by-product” of her leaving it, but is not likely her main motive. [It is likely that the pot was filled—see Hendrickson. The fact that the pot was filled explains the discussion about not sharing common utensils—v. 9. It is unlikely that her primary thought was to leave the pot for Jesus to drink. It is also not likely that she had so thoroughly thought through the implications of Jesus’ teachings so as to understand the nature of true worship—thus connecting the pot with her narrow sectarian views. This puts too much weight on the significance of the pot!]

Jesus had set aside His physical want in order to speak with her; she now set aside her purpose for a higher purpose. She abandoned the water pot for the bringing of men.

She left when the disciples arrived; she no longer had the private time for conversation. **Notice the contrast with the disciples, who are too interested in food and miss the opportunity to witness (31-33).**

Of course she would come back and get it later—but now it was not that important to her. **What is the water-pot in your life that is keeping you from joyfully and enthusiastically sharing the good news with others?**

II. SPREAD THE WORD (28b-30)

A. Wider Communication (28)

“Into the City”; “Spoke to the men” (Not just her “man”)

B. Clear Witness (29)

1. “Come See.” (Compare 1:46—Philip to Nathaniel.) “A sense of urgency”

2. This man has revealed my heart.

“Come see a man who told me all the things that I have done.”

This is an obvious and excusable exaggeration. “She seemed to feel that He had told her all, because He had by that called up all before her eyes” (Westcott). **Jesus had made a profound impression upon her.**

Compare the exaggerations in 3:26 (All men are coming to Him.) and 3:32 (No one receives His message.)

3. This man must be the Christ.

Literally it is a question requiring a negative answer. However, the context shows that she really hopes for a positive answer. It is like she said: “Perhaps this is the Messiah.” *It is almost too good to be true.* She does believe Him to be the Christ, but she does not want to seem too dogmatic or positive to those yet without the evidence.

As Westcott says about her question, “The form of the sentence grammatically suggests a negative answer (v. 33), **but hope bursts through it.**”

C. Favorable Response (30)

1. They left the city
2. They **started on their way** to come to Him [Imperfect tense].

We have the impression here of a sizable group.

Note that the disciples had just been to the town; ALL THAT THEY BROUGHT BACK IS FOOD. They knew Him much longer and much better. SHE BROUGHT BACK MEN!

3. Their trust is **based upon her zeal.**

III. CONVERT THE LOST (39-42)

A. The “Belief” Due to the “Word” of the woman (39)

1. The Number: “Many of the Samaritans”

Note how many of the Jews had and would reject Him! These *pagan* Samaritans “outstrip the Jews and even the apostles in their readiness to believe” (Plummer, p. 125). **The Jews rejected the Scriptures, John the Baptist, Christ’s miracles, Christ’s testimony and teachings; these people accepted the woman’s testimony—and at that, even a woman who did not have a sterling reputation.**

They could see the impact that Jesus had had upon her life!

2. The Nature of the “belief.”

For some (maybe most) of them, this “belief” was likely short of **saving Faith**; God knows the heart. The Spirit was wooing them through the woman’s testimony, they were responding, and the Lord Himself would make up for the deficiency of their faith once they met and spoke with Him.

3. The Witness of the Woman

- a. Her “word” (λογος)

- b. Her “witness” (“when she was witnessing”)

The participle is present tense—“While she continually testified”
She is **persistent**; so should we be in our witness!

Again the words: “He told me all things that I have done.”
**HER TESTIMONY WAS IMPERFECT; YET, FOR ITS PURPOSE
AND AT THE TIME IT WAS ADEQUATE!**

So it is with our testimony! Should we keep silent until we can have a perfect witness? What do you think? Should she have kept silent until she could have a perfect witness?

B. The Belief Due to the Word of the Savior (40-42)

“The Samaritans came to Him.”

So it ever is that no one is truly saved until they have “met the Savior”—until they have had a **personal encounter** with Him. It is one thing to “hear about” Christ; it is another thing to actually meet Him and exercise true saving faith in Him.

The message we give to others must clearly present the truths about Christ’s **person** and **work**. Nothing short of that will generate true saving faith. Remember that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). No one will be saved unless our witness introduces them to the Jesus of the Scriptures—not to some obscure deliverer or some false “Christ.” **Today, Christ does not physically personally encounter an individual, but He does personally encounter an individual through the Spirit and the Word.**

No one can be saved without meeting Him. Have you met Him? Do you know Him as your Savior?

1. They spent time with Him (40).
 - a. “They were continually asking Him to stay (remain) with them.”
Note the contrast with His own people of Nazareth—who asked Him to leave and even tried to throw Him over the cliff! (Mt. 13:58; Lk. 4:29) Compare the thankful Samaritan leper in Lk. 17:16-17.
 - b. He stayed there for two days (This was not a widespread evangelistic campaign in violation of His general principle of going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6).
This was a “shocking action” as far as the Jews were concerned! To stay with Samaritans on such a close personal level for two days!!

Now the Great Commission supersedes the order of Matthew 10; see the Samaritan crusade in Acts 1:8 and 8:5-25.

2. They trusted in Him (41)
 - a. “Many more”—even more than had “believed” earlier through the woman’s testimony. Faith is fundamental for salvation.
The Object of faith, not expressed here, is well-known—**Christ**.
 - b. “Because of His word” (λογος)
This is simply another way of describing the **gospel—the good news**. It is His entire message.
Note later when some Samaritans rejected Him because His face was set toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-56).

3. They were saved by Him (42)
 - a. Not simply because of the “word” (λογια) of the woman.
That is, what she said. This term is not used in an unfavorable

sense here. At times in Greek this word meant “gossip” or “chatter.” Calvin said, “A woman’s tongue is usually untrustworthy.” However, *in the NT the word is not used in such a negative sense*. It is used even of Jesus’ speech in 8:43 (cf. 1:37—the verb form). [See Morris notes]

- b. They have heard for themselves.
Past activity with continuing effects [perfect tense]
- c. They **know** with certainty—“truly.” He is who He claims to be.
- d. He is “the Savior of the World.” (cf. I Jn. 4:14—only other NT ref.)
cf. vv. 21, 23—worship around the world
An expression often used of the Roman emperor—as benefactor and deliverer
Jesus delivers from sin and death.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is not merely a petty ruler of some obscure country or province; He is the Savior of the World. He removes sin’s **guilt, pollution, and punishment**. All people from whatever nation or people can find deliverance in Him. The conversion of the Samaritans proves this truth.

Note the progress of the identity of Jesus in this passage: Jew (v. 9), Prophet (19), Messiah (25-26), Savior of the World (42).

The emphasis of this passage is not upon *the woman*, nor *the Samaritans*, but on **Christ**. Jesus fulfilled the hopes of the **Samaritans, the Jews, and the World**.

This is the GREAT SAVIOR that we know and serve!

It is time that we **leave our water-pots**, run to our family and friends, and lead them to Jesus.

The Lord wants us to **SPREAD THE WORD, and WIN THE WORLD**.