

Morning Sermon Outline – October 8, 2017

“Look Who Grace Can Reach” John 4:1-42

I. God’s grace reaches the Samaritan woman –

<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. (John 4:7 NKJ)

<sup>9</sup> Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. (John 4:9 NKJ)

<sup>27</sup> And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?” (John 4:27 NKJ)

Notice in these verses:

1. There is an emphasis on this woman’s identity, she is a Samaritan woman
2. There is a reason for this emphasis, which is well expressed by the woman herself in verse :9 (see above) basically she is saying ‘why are YOU, talking to me?’
3. His disciples are marveling that Jesus would talk to a woman.

Why weren’t the Jews and Samaritan’s talking?

1. Samaritans were the children of Jews who intermarried with Gentiles
2. In the past, these half- Jews had sided with Israel’s evil enemies

What was the problem with women?

1. In one sense, the disciple’s concern, could have been legitimate; note they do not say anything.
2. There was a certain sinful prejudice against women in the first century Jewish culture – The traditional morning blessing included -

“Blessed are You God for not making me, a gentile, a dog or a woman.”

II. God’s grace reaches extreme sinners –

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

<sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> “for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” (John 4:16-18 NKJ)

*I do not want to say this woman was the worst woman in the world, or the worst sinner, but what she surely lacked was a good reputation.*

1. She says, “no husband” as she is probably ashamed of the details
2. Jesus very graciously attributes ‘truth’ to her statement, sensing her shame and humility about her circumstance.
3. Very likely there were much greater sinners who were not recognized by everyone as such –

<sup>23</sup> “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> “But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.” (Matthew 11:23-24 NKJ)

4. However, we might evaluate sinners, God reaches the WORST or chief of them –

<sup>15</sup> This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:15 NKJ)

III. God’s grace always reaches us through Christ, His Spirit and truth –

1. Note Jesus’ message here to the woman at the well, starts with “living water.”

A. Jesus promised Living Water -

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” John 4:10 NKJ)

Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:13b-14 NKJ)

- B. We know from what is said later, that living water is a reference to the Holy Spirit –

<sup>37</sup> On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NKJ)  
*Though the Spirit had not yet been given, this woman did get a taste of Living Water ...*

2. *Jesus' message moves on to truth –*

A. *Personal truth -*

<sup>18</sup> "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." (John 4:18 NKJ)

*Personal TRUTH, from Christ, the AMEN, is usually not what we like hearing, but it is absolutely NEEDED -*

<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: <sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- <sup>18</sup> "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. <sup>19</sup> "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:14-19 NKJ)

B. *Personal truth was uncomfortable for this woman as well, she moves to theological truth and Jesus moves with her;*

*THEOLOGICAL TRUTH -*

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

<sup>20</sup> "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24 NKJ)

3. *Finally, this discussion of personal and theological truth ends where all such discussions should end, the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Messiah -*

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming " (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*." (John 4:25-26 NKJ)

IV. *God's grace uses whomsoever He chooses -*

<sup>28</sup> The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (John 4:28-29 NKJ)

1. *She probably left at least partially because of the arrival of Christ's disciples – John 4:27*

2. *She left to be a witness – 1 Corinthians 1:25-29*

V. *God's grace reaches and uses the nameless and unnumbered in wonderful, powerful ways –*

<sup>31</sup> In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

<sup>32</sup> But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

<sup>33</sup> Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. <sup>35</sup> "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! <sup>36</sup> "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." <sup>39</sup> And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of His own word. <sup>42</sup> Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." (John 4:31-42 NKJ) *Note here, Jesus does not use His disciples, nor Nicodemus – John 7:45-52, but He uses a Samaritan woman. See the continued comparison here with Nicodemus... 1 Corinthians 1:25-29*

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