

PERTH BIBLE CLASS

HE CAME TO WHERE THEY WERE

STUDY 1 – Sychar’s Well

Reading John 4 v 1 – 42

General Principles – V 1 - 3

No Competition – The Lord Jesus would not allow the Pharisees to compare his ministry with that of John Baptist as to the numbers each had baptised. At the first hint of this he immediately leaves Judaea to make Galilee the centre of his ministry. John had already given indication in 3 v 30 “He must increase but I must decrease” that he well understood that when the public ministry of the Lord Jesus began then his was drawing to a close. A spirit of competition can lead to division among the people of God e.g.

1 Sam 18 – The children acclaim the victory of David over Goliath by singing “Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” v 7. It was after this that Saul sought to slay David.

Num 12 – Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses “hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?” This led to Miriam becoming leprous and the camp of Israel making no progress.

1 Cor 3 – Paul writes of the spirit prevailing amongst Christians in Corinth “I am of Paul, and another I am of Apollos” v 4. He describes such a spirit as carnal and says that while such prevails there is envying, strife and divisions.

While our Christian service is not a competition amongst the people of God we must not lose sight of the description of it being a race. Paul wrote “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”. Such a race deserves our best.

No Hesitation – He “left”, “departed”, “must needs go” all indicate to us that the Saviour did not delay the matter or try to move out with what His Father had planned. What a lesson for all who would do service for the master. Examples abound in this gospel:

ch 2 – At wedding in Cana of Galilee. v 7 “Fill the waterpots” – “they filled them to the brim” v 8 “draw out now and bear unto the governor” – “and they bare it”

ch 9 – the blind man. v 7 “go wash” – “he went his way”

Good when we are quick to respond to His command.

No Discrimination – The Lord Jesus will be found in Samaria despite the prevailing hostilities “the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans” v 9. He will engage in conversation with a “woman of Samaria” v 7. In Luke’s gospel we read “This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them” 15 v 2. In the work of the gospel we do not discriminate based on a person’s background. “Who will have all men to be saved” 1 Tim 2 v 4. “That whosoever believeth in him” John 3 v 16. The same is true in our assembly gatherings. James warned of the possibility of the man with “a gold ring, in goodly apparel” being better treated than the “poor man in vile raiment” 2 v 2.

THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA

Meeting the Saviour – She came in her need “to draw water” v 7. She met a stranger but soon came to have a knowledge and understanding of her real need and the sufficiency that alone could be found in Him. Good to remember the day we met him.

Learning and Knowing – We can trace how this woman began to understand something about the person who met her at the well. “A Jew” v 9 “greater than our father Jacob” v 12 “a prophet” v 19 “the Christ” v 29. Good that our knowledge can develop “grow in grace and in the

knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” 11 Peter 3 v 18. Not only did she learn about his **person** but also his **provision**. He taught her that to drink of the water from the well would mean she would “thirst again” v 13 but he could supply “living water” v 10 and if she would partake of this she would “never thirst” v 14. To learn and know today can only be achieved by studying the scriptures. Paul wrote to Timothy “study to shew thyself approved unto God” 11 Tim 2 v 15.

Leaving – The woman “left her waterpot” v 28. We can learn the lesson that what was once so necessary and seemed so important to life is now irrelevant when compared to the new life with Christ and the work he has fitted us for. Paul wrote “what things were gain to me those I counted loss for Christ” Phil 3 v 7. Early disciples could rightly say “Lo we have left all and have followed thee” Mark 10 v 28.

Telling – Her message was “come see a man, which told me all things that I ever I did : is not this the Christ” v 29. The master has a work for us to do. The demoniac once saved was given the mission “ go home to thy friends and tell how great things the Lord hath done for thee” Mark 5 v 19. Before the Lord Jesus left earth to return to heaven he gave the great commission “go ye into all the world and preach the gospel” Mark 16 v 15. Whether to family, friends or to those of distant lands we all have a responsibility.

THE SAVIOUR

Sovereignty – This was no chance meeting on the Lord’s part. “He must needs go through Samaria” v 4. Why? Because there was a woman and others from the area who were part of God’s great plan for salvation. The woman did not deserve to be saved or merit divine favour but neither did we. She like us are “chosen in him before the foundation of the world” Eph 1 v 4.

Humanity – This incident along with others attest the true humanity of the Lord Jesus while living on earth “being wearied with his journey” v 6. The same Lord Jesus would slept in a boat Mark 4, wept at a grave John 11, hungered in a wilderness Matt 4 was now weary with the distance travelled. We would have little understanding how physically wearied he would be travelling on foot in the heat but he felt it as other men would.

Deity - Stamped across every incident we will consider in this series of studies is the great principle of the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. In acknowledging that he was “wearied with his journey” v 6 we marvel at his comments to the woman “thou hast had five husbands” v 18. Only God could know the intimate details of the life of this Samaritan woman.

Propriety – In dealing with a woman the Saviour would meet with her at the well. None would be able to cast any doubts as to his motives for making contact with this needy soul. We do need wisdom in the things of God in dealing with children and those of the opposite sex. When the servants of God “spake unto the women” at Philippi it was “by a river side” Acts 16 v 13. Paul will indicate a general principle “let not then your good be evil spoken of” Rom 14 v 16.

Sympathy - Knowing everything about this woman yet still the word records “he would have given thee living water” v 10. The Saviour would not withhold the blessing that was so necessary for this lady.

Authority – He has the power to command “give me” v 7 “go call” v 16. Whether to the sinner or the child of God he has authority over all. This is the basis on which salvation comes and also success in Christian service - “Jesus as Lord” Rom 10 v 9.