

FINAL STUDY NOTES -THIS WEEK'S STUDY – (*John 3:14 – 4:8*) - 10/23-24/2023 – The New Birth. John the Baptist Exalts Christ. A Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah!

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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OPENING PRAYER

The Gospel According to John:

- To fully understand this Gospel, we need to understand the purpose of the Holy Spirit in writing it, (*Joh 20:30-31*) *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.*
- **Review from last week:** Jesus Cleanses the Temple; The Discerner of Hearts; The New Birth – (*Chap 3:1-13*) *You Must Be Born Again!* (*Joh 3:4*) Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (*Joh 3:9-13*) Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? [11] Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. [12] If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Having Been Born Again - The New Birth – vs. 14-21

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Joh 3:15 that whoever believes (key word – 7x in these verses) *in Him should not perish but have eternal life* (first of ten references in John – “life of the age to come).

- **Jesus takes Nicodemus back to familiar ground. He is a teacher in Israel, a master.** He knows very well the account in (*Num 21:5-9*) of how when the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they complained and murmured against God and against Moses, saying they brought us out of Egypt that we might perish here in the wilderness. We don't have any bread and we're sick of this manna. The anger of God was kindled against them for their murmuring. God sent fiery serpents among the Israelites and as they were bitten by these fiery serpents, they began to die by the scores. They repented and came to Moses, saying, Pray for us that we might be healed from this plague.
- **Notice how that when Moses prayed unto the Lord, rather than God directly healing them,** He made provision for their healing. In the provision, there was a responsibility given to them. If they would fulfill that responsibility of looking with faith, at the bronze serpent, then God would respond and heal! But they weren't just healed apart from their responsibility, which is quite interesting! That is the very same way we or anyone become born again!
- **God said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent. He made it out of brass.** He put it on a pole in the middle of the camp. It shall come to pass when a person has been bitten by one of these fiery serpents, if they will look at this serpent that is on the pole, they will live and not die. So Moses made this serpent of brass and put it on the pole in the middle of the camp. It came to pass that when a person was bitten, as they looked at that brass serpent on the pole, they were healed and did not die!
- **A picture that is full of symbolism.** Jesus makes reference to it here in the response to the question how to be born again. Brass in the scripture is always a **symbol of God's judgment**. The serpent is a **symbol of sin**. Being lifted up on the pole is a **symbol of the cross**. Jesus said, (*Joh 12:32*) *And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself*, signifying that He would die on a cross.
- **What God is setting up, is a picture. That brass serpent on the pole.** You have been bitten by the fiery serpents. You are dying. You've been bitten by sin and sin is destroying you. You're dying as the result of it. But if you will just obey God, look at the serpent on the pole and see that your sins have been judged.

The brass serpent, the judgment of God against sin and see that your sins are judged. You won't die from the bite of this fiery serpent! It is very easy to bring the picture over to Jesus and see how the symbolism fits!

- **Jesus took our sins on the cross.** The Bible says, (*Isa 53:6*) *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* Taking our sin on the cross, He also then received the judgment of God against sin. As Jesus died in our place, our sin was judged. Thus, as I look today at the cross and I see Jesus dying there for me, I realize that God's judgment against my sin has been meted out against Jesus Christ, who bore my sin. Thus my sins have been judged. I will no longer perish because of my sins. But **by looking, I live!** I have now eternal life **by looking at Jesus!** But I don't have it **apart from looking** in faith to Jesus Christ! (*Isa 45:22*) *"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*
- **So those that were bitten by the fiery serpents, they had a way of preserving life.** All they had to do was **to look up to** God's provision that He made for them. But notice, they weren't just healed, **apart from looking** in faith at God's provision that God had established there in the middle of the camp. **Look and live!**
- **So it is with you! Your sins are not forgiven automatically.** You are **not healed** from that deadly malady of sin **apart from by faith, looking** at the finished work of Jesus Christ, realizing that He bore the judgment of God against sin, against your sin! That's how a person is born again. **Looking in faith** to Jesus Christ. You're born again!
- **Even as it's impossible to explain by what process, just looking at a brass serpent on a pole could save you** from dying, how can you explain that? There's no explanation for that. **The process works because it was God's way!**
- **This brass serpent that Moses put on the pole later became sort of an icon for the people and they made an idol** out of it. They began to worship it in later years. During the reign of Hezekiah, he took this brass serpent that the people had started to worship, and he broke it into pieces, grinding it into just powder. He called it Nehushtan, which means a thing of brass. This is not a god, he says, this is just a thing of brass. It is not to be worshipped.
- **It was a reminder to the people of God's work in their past history.** But whenever you begin to worship the relics that remind you of God's work in past history, it's a **sign that you have lost** an awful lot. You have lost the consciousness of the presence of God in your life today and you're reaching back to try to find something that will stir some kind of spiritual warmth.
- **We should not be too interested in what God has done in our life twenty-five years ago, but what is He doing right now!** Unless our past experiences have been translated into the present relationship, they are not valid. As we follow after Him. It isn't looking back with fondness at the past, **it's looking ahead to what God wants to do tonight if we will just let Him.** The **work that God desires to do now in us!**
- **As Paul the apostle said, (*Php 3:7-8, 10, 12-14*)** *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. [8] Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count (counted thirty years ago!) them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.* But then he brings it up to date. *[10] that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, , (even the death of the cross.)* *[12] Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. [13] Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, The past is past. It's only valuable as it has an effect upon me now. The future is ahead of us. That's where we look! [14] I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- **The process, looking by faith at the cross of Jesus, seeing that God there judged our sins, I am born again!**

For God So Loved the World

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (faith in Him alone not with anything added!) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- **For God so loved the world.** How can anyone see "limited atonement" here? **The Son's mission and purpose is bound up in the supreme love of God for the evil, sinful world** of humanity, that is in rebellion against Him. The word so emphasizes the intensity or **greatness** of His love! The Father gave His unique

and beloved Son to die on behalf of sinful men! (**2Pe 3:9**) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

- **That He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him.** He gave Him to die upon the cross! To be lifted up! To receive the judgment of our sins! God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him!
- **Should not perish but have everlasting life!** That is more than just a quantity of life. It is a **quality of life**. When the young ruler came to Jesus and asked, (**Mar 10:17b**) *Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?* This age-abiding life. He was looking at the quality of life what he saw in Jesus. That's the thing that attracted him.
- **Quantity of life without quality is like hell on earth.** For a person to live in a comatose state month after month, year after year, having to be fed intravenously, that's a living hell. It isn't the **quantity** of life that is important, **it is the quality of life.** It is glorious to realize that this quality of life that I have in Jesus is also quantity! It is to go on forever. That's wonderful too! But it's a quality of life that we have in Jesus! God's purpose, His loving purpose for you is that you do not perish because of your sin, but that **you have everlasting life!** That comes by believing on Jesus. It is so simple, that a little child, four, five, six years old, can understand it and believe in Jesus. But it is so profound that even with years of studying and knowing the Bible, it cannot be fully comprehended or understood! I just know it is so! The beauty of it, because of its simplicity and at the same time, it is so profound!

Joh 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- **For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world.** So many times, we feel that Jesus is condemning us. Jesus said, “I didn't come to condemn the world.
- **But that the world through Him might be saved!** That was His purpose. Not to condemn but to save. You remember the woman taken in the very act of adultery, and the Pharisees brought her screaming hysterically to Jesus. They said, We caught this woman in the very act of adultery and Moses said, We're to stone her. What do You say? Jesus just wrote on the ground as though He was ignoring them. They began to press the issue. Jesus stood up and He looked at them and He said, Let him who is without sin, among you throw the first stone. He knelt down and began to write again until they all left. He stood up and He said, Woman, where are those who condemn you? She said, Well I guess they're not here. Jesus said, **Neither do I condemn you** (**John 8:3-11**). Beautiful words!
- **Jesus said I didn't come to condemn. How is it that we are always thinking that Jesus is condemning us?** How is it, that we always, every time we do something wrong, we think, Oh boy, here it comes. That He is condemning us. Jesus said, No, **I didn't come to condemn you, I came to save you.**

Joh 3:18 He who believes Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in (into) the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- **He who believes in Him.** Into Him, including trust and commitment, resulting in a new heart. A new nature and obedience. Of course, that means, born again! How am I born again? By believing. “He who believes.”
- **Is not condemned; What a beautiful passage of scripture!** O, that we would take it to heart! O, that we would believe it! **He who believes is not condemned!** As Paul wrote in (**Rom 8:1**) *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. There is no condemnation to those who believe in Jesus!* **He who believes is not condemned!**
- **Later on, Paul asks the question, (Rom 8:34)** *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.* He answers his question by not saying, *It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us!*
- **How glorious it is to be born again! To have no condemnation! How glorious it is to be in Christ Jesus,** where there is no condemnation!
- **But he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** Jesus said it wasn't necessary for Me to condemn the world. I didn't come to condemn the world; **the world was, and is, already condemned!** I came to save those who are condemned to death. All of us were condemned to death because of our sin. (**Eze 18:20**) *The soul who sins shall die.*

(Rom 6:23a) For the wages of sin is death. We were all condemned to death. He didn't have to condemn us. We're already condemned. But he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- This verse exposes the reason that anyone would hate the light.

Joh 3:20 For everyone practicing evil, hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- It is always that they want to protect some kind of darkness in their life, that if they believed in Jesus, would be exposed. They don't want to accept Jesus and give up their sin. They want to continue on in their darkness.
- We meet people all the time who express a hatred towards Jesus Christ. The subject of Jesus Christ is a difficult subject to talk about with many people because they have such a hatred towards Jesus. But a good question might be lovingly asked of them as to what would you have to give up to become a follower of Jesus Christ?
- Jesus tells you the truth. The reason why they hate Him is because they love evil. Jesus stands for that which is righteous, and that which is holy, and that which is pure. Thus because they love evil, they *hate the light!*
- And does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. In other words, the light exposes their wickedness. They don't want to come to Jesus because their deeds were evil and would be exposed!

Joh 3:21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.

- The Bible tells us (1Jn 1:7) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* Born again! Walking in the Spirit! Walking in the light! We have this whole new dimension of fellowship with God. When man is born again, what happens is that, here he is in the natural state as you were born, body and mind.
- When you are born again, the spirit comes alive and immediately there is that connection again with God. Communion with God. (Joh 4:23-24) *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. [24] God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*" But you can't do it until the spirit is alive and that comes by believing in Jesus Christ!
- Jesus didn't come to condemn but to bring you spiritual life. To bring you light. We walk in Jesus and the works that we do, they are manifest that they are the works of God. They are that which God has done in us and that which God is doing through us. It becomes obvious that these glorious works are just God's working in and through our lives.

John the Baptist Exalts Christ - The New Birth – vs. 22-36

Joh 3:22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.

- We're through now with the conversation with Nicodemus. In the next chapter it tells us that John the Baptist heard that Jesus was baptizing more people than he was. Though John the beloved who wrote this said that Jesus really wasn't baptizing but His disciples were baptizing. Now Jesus is carrying on a ministry that is similar to John the Baptist in that He is now with His disciples there in the area of Judea, people are coming and are being baptized.

Joh 3:23 Now John (the Baptist) also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.

- Because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. The exact location of this reference is disputed. The phrase may refer to either Salim near Shechem or Salim that is six miles south of

Beth Shean. Both are in the region of Samaria. Both sites have plenty of water. The fact that there was a lot of water, no doubt indicates that the baptism was by full immersion rather than by sprinkling, because if you sprinkled it wouldn't take a lot of water.

Joh 3:24 For John (the Baptist) had not yet been thrown into prison.

- **It is obvious from the other gospels that Jesus really began His full on, public ministry after John the Baptist was put in prison.** But here they are now, not far from each other, both of them engaged in baptizing people. John, the end of the old economy, the last of the prophets, yet the greatest. But he is the last of God's word through the prophets. (*Heb 1:1-2*) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;* So now you have the end of the old and the beginning of the new. Here's a little cross over here, they are both of them now ministering. John, the end of the old economy; Jesus, the beginning of the new. They are baptizing there in the area of the Jordan river there in Judea.
- **John had not yet been thrown into prison.** This provides another indication that the Gospel of John supplemented the synoptic gospels by providing additional information that helps further understanding of the movements of John the Baptist and Jesus. In Matthew and Mark, Christ's temptation is followed by John's imprisonment. With this phrase, John the apostle fills in the gap between Jesus' baptism and temptation and the Baptist's imprisonment.

Joh 3:25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification.

- **There were an awful lot of laws in the Jews concerning purifying.** How you were to wash your hands, how much water was to be used, the way you would hold your hands, and the way you would rub your hands. They had all of these rules and regulations. It had to be running water and many regulations.
- **There arose a dispute.** The dispute probably concerned the relation of the baptismal ministries of John and Jesus to the Jews' purification practices. The real underlying cause, however, centered in the concern of John's disciples, not John the Baptist, himself, that Jesus was in competition with him.

Joh 3:26 And they came to John (the Baptist) and said to him, "Rabbi (teacher), He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

- **Here are John the Baptist's disciples. They're coming to him and they're reporting.** The One that you baptized, and you witnessed of Him, they're baptizing now and just a lot of people are going to Him. Jesus may have been close to Jericho near the fords of the Jordan, while John was a short distance north, baptizing at Aenon. John's followers were especially disturbed by the fact that so many people were flocking to Jesus, whereas formerly they had come to John the Baptist.

Joh 3:27 John (the Baptist) answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

- **Paul the apostle asked the question, (1Co 4:7) For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?** If there is any good work that is coming forth from your life, it's **because God** is doing it. If God is doing it, then how can you boast as though God wasn't doing it, as though you are something special. No man can operate in the realm of the Spirit unless God is doing it. **A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven**, emphasizing God's sovereign authority in granting ministry opportunity.
- **The whole idea is rejoicing in the Lord, giving glory to God for that which He has done! Don't magnify the instrument through which He has done His work, but magnify God!**

Joh 3:28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'

- **These beautiful words of John now. What a true servant! How true he is to his ministry.** He is not

seeking glory for himself. He said, Look, I told you, I'm not the Messiah. But I have been sent before Him.

Joh 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

- **He who has the bride is the bridegroom.** I'm not the bridegroom. They were very familiar with this analogy as God, through the prophets declared Himself the husband of Israel. They were His bride. God as being the husband and the nation of Israel the bride. So, the church, the bride of Christ. Jesus, the bridegroom. John says that "*He who has the bride is the bridegroom*. They're not mine, they're His!
- **But the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.** The fulfillment of joy in bringing the bride to the bridegroom. That was the place of the friend of the bridegroom. He would bring the bride to the groom. The groom would not speak until he accepted the bride. He was silent until he accepted the bride. When he spoke, it meant his acceptance of the bride. So John is saying, **But the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice.** That is, hears him in the accepting of the bride, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice!
- **Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.** I've accomplished my job. Then these fabulous words and oh God, help us to all just to have this attitude!

Joh 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

- **How true! He must increase. John the Baptist is not looking for a place for himself. His mission is fulfilled.** His joy is fulfilled when Christ is honored! When Christ is glorified! That **should be true in each of our lives!** The great joy comes when Jesus is honored. When Jesus is glorified. For "*He must increase, and I must decrease!*" Can we truly say that?
- **That is the witness of John the Baptist concerning Jesus.** As was pointed out, John in this gospel is seeking to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. That by proving that to you, you will come to believe that truth and thus have the eternal life that comes through Jesus Christ. Thus, the writer, John, is picking out certain witnesses to bear witness of the truth of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist, being one of those witnesses. He is picking out incidents from the life of Christ. Miracles and all that, again prove that Jesus is the Messiah. Throughout this Gospel of John, he will be presenting proofs by the works of Jesus and proofs by the various witnesses that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Son of God! We have the witness now of John the Baptist.

Joh 3:31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

- **Is John the Baptist, still the author?** Beginning with verse thirty-one, there are two fields of thought as to the authorship. There are some that believe that John the Baptist is still talking and that John the beloved is recording the words of John the Baptist.
- **Is this portion written by John the gospel writer?** But there are others who believe that John's last words were, *He must increase, and I must decrease!* If those were his words, what beautiful last words to come forth from a person's ministry. I've accomplished my purpose! I've brought the bride to the groom. I've heard His voice. My joy is complete! I've accomplished that call of God and now, *He must increase, I must decrease!* So that John, the author of the book, then records these things.
- **He who comes from heaven is above all.** Jesus, remember, talked to Nicodemus about that no man ascends up to heaven but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. So "*He that comes from heaven is above all.*" Notice it's present tense, it isn't past tense! He who came. With Jesus, the eternal God. He's always coming from above. "*He is above all.*"
- **John explained why Jesus the incarnate word must become greater.** He alone is "*from above*" (heavenly origin) and therefore "*above all.*" The Greek term "*above all*" can only be experienced by faith in the One who is "*from above.*" In contrast, all others are "*of the earth*" signifying finiteness and limitation. In the immediate context, John the Baptist had to become less, because he was "*of the earth*" and belonged to the earth. Although he called for repentance and baptism, John could not reveal heaven's counsel, like Jesus, the God-Man!

Joh 3:32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

- Basically, Jesus said this to Nicodemus. That you have not believed. I've told you of heavenly things and you do not believe.

Joh 3:33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

- Having received the witness of Jesus, having believed the testimony of Jesus, we firmly attest to it, that God is true!

Joh 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

- Jesus had the complete fullness of the Spirit. It wasn't given to Him by measure, like other prophets, but without limit! It wasn't just sort of measured out, but it is the fullness of the Spirit. Thus, He speaks God's word to us. Jesus said, "The words that I speak, they are life." (*Isa 61:1*) "*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.*"
- (*Joh 1:16*) *And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.* We must look to the cross in faith for our salvation! We also must keep on looking at the cross all through our Christian walk, in that of *His fullness, we have all received, and grace for grace!*

Joh 3:35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

- In Psalm 2, we have the Father speaking to the Son saying, (*Psa 2:8*) *Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.* In (*Php 2:9-11*) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name, which is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. God has given all things unto His Son! He loves His Son!

Joh 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- Such an important and complete fitting climax! *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life;* That's just straight, plain as you can get. If you believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, you have everlasting life.
- *And he who does not believe the Son shall not see life.* You'll never know what spiritual life is. You are dead in your trespasses and sins. You'll never see life.
- But (tragically) *the wrath of God abides on him,* As we read in (*Heb 10:27*) *but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.* How am I born again? Believing on Jesus Christ. "God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him would not perish." *He who believes has everlasting life.* He has **passed from condemnation into life. How glorious!** Our relationship with God tonight is made possible through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- John the Baptist gives a fitting climax to the chapter, laying out the two alternatives, genuine faith, and defiant disobedience, thereby bringing to the forefront the threat of looming judgment. As John faded from the forefront, *he offered an invitation to faith in the Son,* clearly expressing and clearly expressed **the ultimate consequence of failure to believe**, which is *the wrath of God!*

A Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah! – vs. 1-8

Joh 4:1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

- Jesus has begun His ministry, calling people to repentance much like John the Baptist and many are coming to Him. In fact, more are coming to Him than to John the Baptist. Word has come to the Pharisees that Jesus is baptizing more than John. However, John the beloved, the writer of the gospel, gives us the little commentary here.
- The story of the Samaritan woman reinforces John's main theme that *Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God.* The thrust of these verses is not so much her conversion, but that *Jesus is Messiah!* While her conversion is clearly implied, the apostle's focus centers on Jesus' declaration foretold in the Scriptures.

Also important is the fact that this chapter demonstrates Jesus' love and understanding of people. His love for mankind involved no boundaries, for He lovingly and compassionately reached out to a woman who was a social outcast. In contrast to the limitations of human love, Christ exhibits the **character of divine love** that is indiscriminate and all-encompassing!

Joh 4:2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

Joh 4:3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

- They were coming to Jesus and the disciples were baptizing them. *Jesus left Judea.* He did not want a confrontation with them at this time. He decided to travel north in order to avoid any conflict.

Joh 4:4 But He needed to go through Samaria.

- The only reason that I can see why *He needed to go through Samaria* was to meet the woman at the well. Going through Samaria from Judea to Galilee was not the normal route that the Jews took because of the tremendous animosity that existed between the Jews and the Samaritans.
- Just consider how differently Jesus goes about introducing His Messiahship! He is choosing the most hated and disrespected group of people – the Samaritans. Not only that but rather than going after the most influential and respected person in Samaria, He, a Jewish rabbi, who never would approach a Samaritan, let alone a women, *needed to go* to the most disrespected woman in the city! Think about His approach!
- The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians who took the people out of the land, repopulating them in other areas. However, they brought other people in to occupy the northern kingdom. The people that had come to occupy the northern kingdom were being ravaged by wild animals. So they determined it is because they didn't know the customs of the gods of the people that occupied that territory before. So they brought some Jews back to teach these people concerning God. So that those in the northern kingdom were sort of considered by the Jews half-breeds. There came the inter-marriage and so forth and they were called the Samaritans and considered half-breeds by the Jews.
- Later Judah, the southern kingdom went into captivity to Babylon and after seventy years when they were allowed to return to the land, as they started the rebuilding of the temple, those from the northern kingdom came down to help them, offering their help in the rebuilding of the temple. But because they were considered half-breeds because of the inter-marriage, they refused their help, which created a deep animosity that never ended.
- The Samaritans felt snubbed because their offer to help was rejected. So they began setting up Mount Gerizim as the place of worship. They began to develop their traditions, saying that Mount Gerizim was the true site of the temple. That Abraham, when he offered Isaac actually offered him on Mount Gerizim, not on Moriah in Jerusalem. To the present day, the Samaritans still offer animal sacrifices on Mount Gerizim. There are only about two hundred Samaritans left. There has been so much inter-marriage that most of them are imbecilic. But they are about to pass off the scene, but they still exist to the present day.
- Because of the conflict, outright hostility, between the Jews and the Samaritans, the Jews from the Galilee region coming to Jerusalem to worship God would do their best not to go through Samaria, but would go down to the Jordan river, cross the Jordan and come down on the opposite side of the Jordan river, and then re-cross it near Jericho and come up to Jerusalem for the various feasts. Going back to Galilee, they would go the same way. So to go through Samaria was unusual. The fact that it said, "*He needed to go through Samaria,*" the only reason why would be to have a meeting with this woman of Samaria, who was thirsty for living water!

Joh 4:5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar (now Shechem), near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

- We are told in Genesis 33 that Jacob bought a parcel of ground from Shechem and that he gave this parcel to Joseph, we know from the scripture here. Joseph when he died in Egypt made commandments concerning his bones. He made them promise that when they return to the land, they would carry his bones out of Egypt and bury them in the land of his fathers. So when the children of Israel did come from Egypt, they brought the mummy of Joseph, and they buried it there in this parcel of ground outside of the modern Shechem where Jacob had dug a well and Jacob's well is there to the present day. (*Jos 24:32*) *The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem* for one hundred pieces of

silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Joh 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- The wells usually had a rock border around them, about twenty-four inches high, and the rock had a hole in the center of it in which they would let their buckets down into the well. It was to protect people from just falling into the well. You can see it today. You have to go down into a lower room to see Jacob's well, but Jesus was sitting on the side of the well, wearied with His journey. And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us." So the human aspect of the nature of Jesus, wearied with the journey.
- ***It was about the sixth hour.*** That is thought to be the reckoning of the Hebrew time, which would be about noon time. The Roman time of the sixth hour would be six in the evening. Whatever fits, with whatever you are comfortable. Take it. It really doesn't make any difference.

Joh 4:7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

- Women generally came in groups to collect water, either earlier or later in the day to avoid the sun's heat. If the Samaritan woman alone came at 12:00 p.m., this may indicate that her public shame caused her to be isolated from other women.
- ***Give Me a drink.*** For a Jewish man to speak to a woman in public, let alone to ask from her, a Samaritan, a drink, was a definite breach of rigid social custom as well as a marked departure from the social animosity that existed between the two groups. Further, a "rabbi" and religious leader did not hold conversations with women of ill-repute.

Joh 4:8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

- This verse indicates that since Jesus and His disciples were willing to purchase food from Samaritans, they did not follow some of the self-imposed regulations of stricter Jews, who would have been unwilling to eat food handled by outcast Samaritans.

SUMMARY:

Having Been Born Again - The New Birth –For God So Loved the World - vs. 14-21

- You **must** be born again! The Son of Man **must** be lifted up! You **must look** to Him!
- God so loved that He gave! Whoever believes shall **not perish** but **have everlasting life**.
- Jesus **did not come to condemn**, but **to save!** Men loved darkness rather than light **because** their deeds were evil.

John the Baptist Exalts Christ - The New Birth – vs. 22-36

- The Baptist is not from heaven, but from earth. My spirit is limited, **His is full measure, unlimited!**
- Not the bridegroom but His friend. **He must increase, but I must decrease!**
- He who believes has everlasting life. He who does not believe shall not see life, but **the wrath of God abides** on him?

A Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah! – vs. 1-8

- Jesus **needed to go** through Samaria to meet **the woman** at the well!
- Give Me a drink!

CLOSING SONG:

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS – Isaac Watts (1707) Billy Graham Crusade Choir (3:00/3:04)

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and study *John Chapter 4*

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies
PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUX7eWEpN>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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