

Knowing The Gift of God
Harmony M.B.C., September 7, 2008 (Morning)
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John 4:1-15

Christ had a need to go through Samaria, as scripture tells us. I believe that the need was more than just to have a short-cut to the next stop, or to have an easier journey. I believe this Samaritan woman had something to do with that need. I also believe that leaving an account about this encounter and leaving some words that He has spoken had to do with that need also. In this encounter with a woman of a culture that was far removed into heresy concerning Jehovah and the Jews religion, the Lord leaves us with teachings which we could have not gotten anywhere else. Those teachings revolved around thirst and an ages-old well. It was at this well, called "Jacob's well" that Jesus sat and rested. The fact that John recorded that it was called "Jacob's well" tells us that the common knowledge of the people both in Samaria and Israel identified it as that. In **verse 12** we learn that the Samaritan woman has been taught by her culture that Jacob gave this well. Jacob would have given this well to his offspring, which of course, were not really kin to these Samaritans, unless accidentally and remotely, because the Samaritans were a hybrid culture which grew out of inbreeding between alien races planted there and poor Jews who had been left on the land when Assyria carried the Jews away captive. Regardless, we have before us a scene which truly lends itself to the teaching of great truths about Christ and salvation. We want to pursue that this morning, and trust the Holy Spirit will enliven us to those truths as we notice some facts that come out of this encounter.

I. Knowing What The Gift of God Is, Changes Things In the Person

- ❖ The gift of God is commonly presented as, and comprehended as, escaping hell and going to heaven
 - But, escaping hell carries no threat today in a world gone mad with rejecting the Word of God; the warnings about hell are treated as so much historical writing, or as a fantasy or myth
 - And going to heaven not nearly as attractive to a sin sodden, affluent culture at ease in a world of convenience
- ❖ But, the power of our message lies in the deeper truth of what the gift of God is, with this message, we have a sword that strikes deep into the heart of a human to reach the secret places of the soul. So, let's talk about that deeper truth. What is the gift of God? That gift has two faces, but both faces are about the same thing. Let's think about them both.
- ❖ First, (and what is usually thought of as the gift of God) it is eternal life (**Rom. 6:23**) – "**...the gift of God is eternal life...**"
 - To fully appreciate what this means we need to look at the other side of the story:
 - Death stands as a continual witness about the terminal condition of all humans
 - The unknown beyond death stands as a continual wall of unease and uncertainty to all humans
 - To present the gift of God as certainty of painless, joyous, full life forever puts this great

gift in a fuller light

- ❖ Now, here is the other face of this great truth...the more glorious one: The gift of God is **the person of Jesus Christ as He has been given for the elect of God**. This puts the route to eternal life in proper perspective.
 - He is...the life and no man comes to God but by Him (**John 14:6**)
 - “Who gave himself for our sins” - **Gal. 1:4**
 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
 - Jesus Christ... “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity...”
Titus 2:14
 - To gain possession of God’s gift of eternal life, we had to have a way to obtain it - that way is through Jesus Christ (explain why it must be through Him – because **He IS the life**)
- ❖ If thou knewest the Gift of God:
- ❖ Another Aspect of the Gift of God - Its Freeness
 - **Rom. 3:24** Being **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
 - **Rom. 8:32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give us all things**?
 - **Rev. 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give** unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life **freely**.
- ❖ If thou knewest the Gift of God:
- ❖ Another Aspect of the Gift of God - Its Completeness
 - **Heb. 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to **save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him**, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
 - **Heb. 10:12-14** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; **13** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **14** For by one offering he **hath perfected forever them that are sanctified**.
 - **John 10:27-28** **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.**

II. Knowledge of the gift of God Has Its Evidences, and Ignorance Has Its Evidences

- ❖ First note that this knowledge the Savior spoke of had nothing to do with learning what the facts are about Christ (see **John 4:25** The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.)
- ❖ Those who come to the kind of knowledge that Jesus is talking about ask for life from Christ:
 - **John 4:15** The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.
 - No extensive knowledge about the nature of the living water is exhibited by this woman
 - She DID have the sensibility that this was a desirable treasure to be had
 - Her perceptions were still largely carnal, which caused her to continue to try to connect the spiritual with the physical (see **John 4:19-20** The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

- ❖ Those who are ignorant of the gift of God do not ask for life from Christ
 - Those who are totally uninformed may be so by choice born of disinterest
 - They may be uninformed through simply not having heard the truth about God's gift
 - They may be uninformed by rejecting the message about God's gift
 - They will all respond the same way...they will not ask for life from Christ
 - All will discover the same end