

ABIDING IN THE TRUTH IN CHRIST (JOHN 4:5-42)

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[John 4:5-26 (Jesus and the Samaritan Woman)] So He [Jesus] came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 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. 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." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 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." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 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. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you AM HE."

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First of all, it can and has been said, the more you get to know the Word of God, spending time in prayer and reading or hearing the Word, it can become clearer and clearer to you that the Word of God complements the Word of God. Complements=brings together as a whole, makes complete. The whole of God's Word then is one beautiful picture of God's purpose of His creation and then His redemptive plan for mankind, so that we may be part of His eternal kingdom! That picture, to me anyways, is not as much like a puzzle with many pieces, but

more like a fabric with the overlapping of the warp and woof, the two direction of the strans of material, overlapping. So the more we know of, and recognize and understand the Word of God, the Word of Whom "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14) and the inspired and written Word, we see more clearly the wholeness or completeness of the Word of God. Then as the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his spiritual son, "from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is **in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" (2 Timothy 3:15-17) Therefore, the completeness of the Word is intended by God to become us. In effect, 1. restoring us into the image of God as was intended at creation, but also, for the finality of which we read, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him [THE WORD] as He is."

With that being said and hopefully understood, let us then tie together what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman with what the Apostle John also recorded Jesus as teaching. To paraphrase, Jesus had told Nicodemus that one must be born-again, born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, also referred to by the Apostle Paul as the Spirit of Christ. In other words, we are receiving Christ when we are born-again, as one must receive Christ into one's heart to be saved and to become a child of God. "He who has the Son has **life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have **life.**" (1 John 5:12) Then also, as John had explained in the first chapter of his gospel account of Christ, he explains that "as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**" (John 1:12-13) Then the apostle John records in his narrative a little bit later in **John 6:27-29**, of which Jesus says, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to **everlasting life**, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Very similar to that are the words of Jesus recorded by **Matthew (6:33)**, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." He was talking about not worrying about food and clothing but about what brings forth eternal life. Again, Jesus said, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you", then in **John 6**, John's narrative continues, "Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?'" [ie-what must we do to ensure that we are saved] Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him** [He's speaking of Himself] **whom He sent.**" How do we know that Jesus is speaking of Himself? Jesus is also recorded by the Apostle John to have said,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17) So we then believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who came to teach the will of God to us, and then He died on a cross for our sins, taking our place, and taking our sins against God upon Himself, on that cross, and then to the grave. Yet the grave could not hold Him down! Put together, we are believing On Jesus and then going to Him for that life, that **"fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."**

As we will go over the story, next week, of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Lord willing, in that narrative account that the Apostle John recorded for us, before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He had some dialogue with Martha, Lazarus' sister. "Jesus said to her, **"Your brother will rise again."** Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." [Praise the Lord, she knew about THE RESURRECTION, at the last trump, but...] Jesus said to her, **"I AM the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives AND believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." (John 11:23-27) Earlier in **John 10:17-18**, To explain that what Jesus would have to suffer wasn't just based on His circumstances, Jesus said, **"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."** Ultimately meaning, that was God's redemptive plan for us from the beginning, before His creation of all things. Consequently, based on the will of God and not due to unfortunate circumstances, Jesus has proven that He is greater than death, sin, and evil, as He overcame, so too we can overcome the same, to have eternal life in God's everlasting kingdom, as a child of God! And as we are following Jesus, as our Good Shepherd, we are then laying down our lives for God as well, as we ARE HIS, though not for the sins of the world, but in humble submission to our Heavenly Father. That all begins in our believing on Christ Jesus and receiving His Spirit. We are really responding to Christ that we WANT HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, so that we may worship in spirit and truth.

In the Old Testament, after Moses had led the Israelites out of Egypt all the way to the Promised Land, and then Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, aka Canaan land. Just before he was to die, he told them, "Now therefore, fear the Lord, **serve Him in sincerity and in truth**, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **Serve the Lord!"** (Joshua 24:14) Once again, Jesus told the Samaritan woman, **"true worshipers will**

worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." You see how spirit had replaced, so-to-speak, sincerity. We read **Luke 16** last week which all tied together, in the two separate parables that Jesus gave, the parable of the unjust steward and the rich man and Lazarus, of which Jesus was pointing out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Yet as we know, one doesn't have to be a religious leader to be a hypocrite, ie-saying you're a child of God and then living as a child of Satan. That worshipping in spirit and truth and serving the Lord is intended to be as a child of God, in HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS! As we believe on Jesus as being the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Who IS our salvation, as awesome and wonderful as that is, or as HE IS, we also are believing in His wholeness of Who HE IS. The Apostle Paul said that Christ Jesus is for us, from God, our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and our Redemption! (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) And as Jesus said in what is **John 14:6**, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Now then, tying together the worshipping God in sincerity and truth, spirit and truth, when a man pleaded with Jesus to deliver his son from a demon, Jesus replied, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" (**Mark 9:23-25**) Jesus honored that man's **honesty** [root honos=honor] and sincerity, just as He honored the honesty and sincerity of the Samaritan woman. Our sincerity, our honesty with God is acknowledging that HE IS God, our Creator, our Sustainer, and our Life, and that we need His forgiveness of our sins against Him, and it is only in His Righteousness, that we may have, "**fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**" Jesus, "who being the brightness of [God's] glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." (**Hebrews 1:3**) Then, as He is perfect in all of His ways and works, we can trust Him. As we then have the Truth within us, in Christ, He works in us the fruit of the Spirit and He leads in His Way, Truth and Life that we may then worship Him in Spirit and Truth and that we may have rivers of Living water, all to the glory and praise of God.

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[**John 4:27-42**] 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?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the

meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, AND to finish His work. 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! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." 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." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. 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."

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In the last chapter of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, **Revelation 22**, Jesus said, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. [Once again, our work is believing ON Christ Jesus, trusting in His working in us, and allowing Him to do so-**Ephesians 2:8-10**. Jesus continued saying:] I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." (**Revelation 22:12-15**) What are we intended to practice? **1 John 1:6** gives us the answer, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." The Truth in Christ and as HE IS our Righteousness, that is what we practice! "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother." (**1 John 3:10**) Lastly, "Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "IF you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (**John 8:31-32**)