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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 4:1-16

Lesson #14

Two lonely people

10/11/2015



Mother Teresa

“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”



Pope Francis

“If they (homosexuals) accept the Lord and have goodwill, who am I to judge them?”

Has the Catholic church changed its view of homosexual behavior?

“NO!
The lyrics are the same just the music has changed.”

Marsha Stevens

(the mother of contemporary Christian music)

Divorced her husband and came out of the closet as a lesbian.

For understandable reasons she was shunned by the evangelical Christian community.

The Gospel of John

Two lonely people 4:1-26

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Ministry to the disciples	Ministry to the world of sinners
1-2	3-4	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-21
Signs				Sermons	Sacrifice
Public ministry				Private ministry	Paschal ministry
Galilee & Judea				Jerusalem	
About 3 1/2 years				Only a few days	

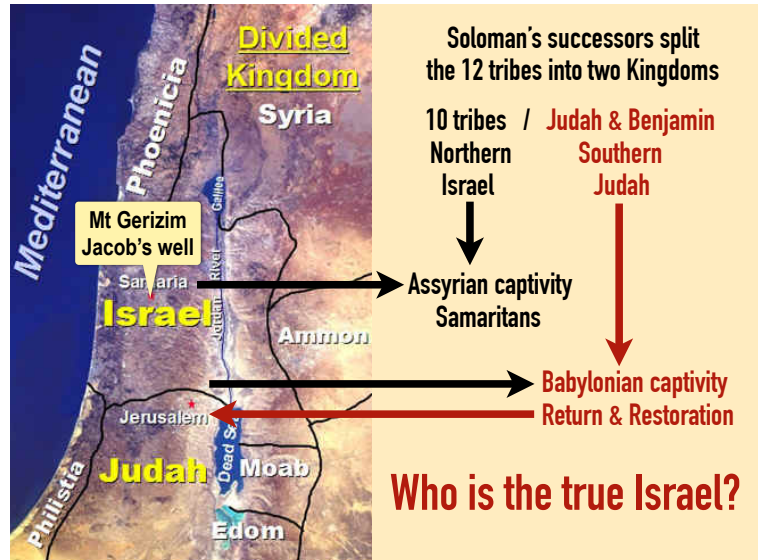
John 4

"¹ When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³ He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour (early evening)."

Jacob's well
in Sychar
near Mt Gerizim
is 135 ft. deep.



"⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)"



How did Samaritans differ from Jews?

- They represented a mixed race having intermarried with non Israelis from Assyria, they adopted aspects of pagan religion.
- They recognized only the Pentateuch as Scripture. The only prophet after Moses was to be the Messiah.
- They worshiped at Mt. Gerizim (not Jerusalem) after being rejected in their offer to help rebuild Jerusalem.
- They offered refuge to outlaws from Judea.

A Jewish Rabbi was under strict rules with respect to contact with:

- Women who were alone in public.
"to even look at a women is a sin that would consign a person to Gehinnom (a place of punishment after death)".
- Samaritans in general and any utensil associated with a Samaritan
"Let no Israelite eat one mouthful of any thing that is a Samaritan's; for if he eat but a little mouthful, he is as if he ate swine's flesh".
One rabbi had said, "The daughters of the Samaritans are perpetually unclean".

¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ She said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water?"

Isaiah 12:3

"Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation."

John 7

³⁷ Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ But this He spoke of **the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive**; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw." ¹⁶ He said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped in this mountain (**Mt. Gerizim**), and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father."

Mt. Gerizim



²² You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ **NOTE: added by John for his Greek readers**); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Two forms of worship

What is to come (New Covenant)

Spirit driven

The full Truth
of God's Redemptive Plan

Reflecting Eternal Life

Satisfying the thirst
of our soul

What has been (Old Covenant)

Law driven

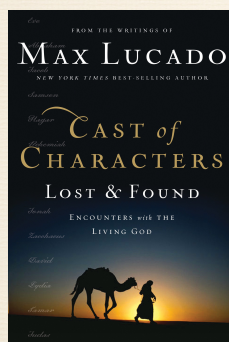
A Type or picture
of God's promised blessing

Postponed Judgment

Leaving us without
the water of life

What is the point of this story?

- The Woman at the well - who was she?.



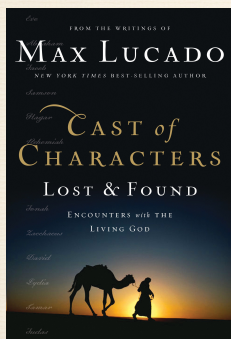
“Baby Boldt
Born and died
December 10, 1910”

“Sleep sweetly tired
young pilgrim.”

“Sleeps, but rests not.
Loved, but was loved not.
Tried to please, but pleased not.
Died as she lived—alone.”

What is the point of this story?

- The Woman at the well - who was she?.



She would have been
shunned by the Jews for
understandable reasons.

She was a woman with a
history of trying to find life
in all the wrong places.

Her thirst for life had not
been quenched.

A woman alone.

What is the point of this story?

- The Woman at the well - who was she?.

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed
two evils; they have forsaken
Me, the fountain of living
waters, to hew for themselves
cisterns, broken cisterns that
can hold no water.”

What is the point of this story?

- The Woman at the well - who was she?.
- The Man at the well - who was he?.

**What happens in John 4
illustrates what was said in John 3.**

John 3

“17 For God **did not send the Son into the world to judge the world**, but that the world should be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged;”

What is the point of this story?

- The Woman at the well - who was she?.
- The Man at the well - who was he?.
- **He initiates contact with her.** This would have been scandalous.
- **He apparently shares her cup.** This would have been unthinkable.
- **He reaches into her private life** exposing her troubled relationships.
- **He freely offers her the water of life** with no condemnation or call for personal reform.

Isaiah 53

³ “He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.”

**Like the woman
he was a man alone.**

Do you need to hear this story?

- **Do you often feel alone, misunderstood, or forgotten?** Do you see that God in Jesus sees your tears and reaches out to you?
- **Do you pick up on the loneliness around you?** Do you notice the loner, or marginalized person in your circle or do you avoid circles with people like that?
- **Have you turned away from someone who reached out to you for affirmation?** Do you ignore or dismiss the pain of others as none of your business?
- **How do you respond to the social policy decisions that you participate in?** Do you think of the powerless, lonely, marginalized, and poor with empathy, compassion, and encouragement?

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“For Those Tears I Died”

Written by Marsha Stevens

***The mother of contemporary Christian music
Sung by Destiny Cross***

What can you do?

- **Repent!** - change your direction (attitude and actions).
- **Receive!** - accept Jesus' compassion for your own condition and be the answer to someone else prayer for a loving touch.
- **Reach out!** - to those who are on the fringe socially.
- **Pray!** - that the Spirit of Christ in you would make you an instrument of the heart of Jesus to those around you.
- **Don't be too quick to judge.** - It is the love & grace of God that ultimately must constrain us, not the Law.