

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 8

Scripture of Lesson: John 4:1~42

1. Importance of one person to Jesus's ministry

- a. v 4: Jesus "had to" go through Samaria. Why? Jesus was led by the Spirit because there were Samaritan people who needed to be saved.
- b. The woman who met Jesus at Jacob's well – After a failed life, she meets Messiah. To one failed life our Lord showed compassion.

2. Samaritans vs. Jews: historical background

- a. Division of the Kingdom of Israel into Judea and Israel [I Kings 12:16~20]
- b. Samaritans = tribe of Joseph [Ephraim and Manasseh]
- c. Assyrians' conquest of Israel [721 BC], captivity into Assyria, then resettlement by both Israelites and foreign peoples; worshipped both God and foreign gods.
- d. Jews' disdain of Samaritans

3. Living water—our thirst for life and truth

- a. Living water = Spirit of God in believing souls, perpetual source of life-giving spirit to believers
- b. Freely offered while we have time: Rev. 22:17 "Let him who is thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

4. Jesus, the source of living water

- a. V. 10 "I would have given you the living water." –We only need to feel our need and ask Him.
- b. Rev. 22:1 "A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."
- c. Natural examples: Ullung Island and Hwanseon Cave in South Korea, where water gushes out at high altitudes perpetually with water sources at even higher mountain somewhere else.

5. True worship—in spirit and truth

- a. Samaritans' traditional place of worship: Mt Gerizim; Jews' place of worship: Jerusalem temple
 - i. Which place is the authoritative place of worship? V. 21 "Neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you worship the Father." Where then?
- b. V. 23 "God is seeking those who worship the Father in spirit and in truth."
 - i. In spirit because God is spirit. We need to come to Him bearing fruits of the Spirit. [Gal 5:22, Eph 5:9; Ps 1:3]
 - ii. In truth – Living out the truth in Jesus' life and teachings. "I am the way, truth and life." [John 14:6]; Ps 51:6 [Truth in inward parts of our life.] Prov 23:23 "Buy the truth and sell it not." –Truth comes to us at a great price but freely. Let us value it as the most precious treasure and sell it not at any cost.
- c. Our place of worship is not important; Christians have worshipped in homes, underground catacombs, synagogues and church buildings. Rather, how we worship, in both daily living and in worship services, is more important than where we worship. God is still seeking such honest souls and will come to them to help and bless them.