

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Glory of Christ's Omniscience

INTRODUCTION

When you think of the story of the woman at the well, it seems right to me that the key to the story is Jesus' introductory statement to this lady: *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."* (John 4:10, ESV) . In a sentence, "If you knew who I really was and what I offer, you ask me for it."

This is evangelism. The Gospel is not your testimony, as much as it is important. The Gospel is not our lifestyle (Preach the Gospel, use words if necessary ☹️). The Gospel is not the plan of salvation. The Gospel is the Good News about who Jesus is and what He offers. The Gospel is NOT what you should do. The Gospel is about what Jesus has done.

"The woman, like Nicodemus, continues to think on the purely naturalistic plane, as is made clear by her desire not to *keep coming here to draw water.*"¹ Because Jesus is not offering this lady "her best life now" He has to press on into topics that bring her better clarity as to who He is and what He offers. He starts with the uncomfortable topic of sin.

TEXT: [John 4:16–30 \(ESV\)](#)

He knows my sin.

It is an interesting thing and a profound truth, that before we can truly know what Jesus has to offer, we must come to grips with our spiritual condition. The knowledge that Jesus had about her marital situation leads her closer to knowing who Jesus really is.

We know nothing about her five previous marriages. They may have been through death or divorce. Her current living situation was clearly sinful. *"For you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."* (John 4:18, ESV). "It is true," Jesus said, "You have no husband." This is the clearest statement in the Bible that so-called common-law marriage is a sin. To all who would like to dance around this with thoughts like, "But we really love one another"; or "we are really committed to one another", hear the words of Jesus *"and the one you now have is not your husband"*.

We are masters at deception. We always present ourselves in the best light. But it is so important to stop and realize, from time to time, that Jesus knows our sin – He knows our sin better than we do.

¹ Carson, D. A. (1991). [The Gospel according to John](#) (p. 220). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

“You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.” (Psalm 90:8, ESV)

You and I live in a constant state of irony. We hide our sins from one another. We clothe our sins with rags, hoping to make them look better, yet God, the holy, righteous, pure and just God, knows every sin, every evil nuance – the irony is that many of us are unmoved by this reality. We often deal with sin like this woman. We compare ourselves to others.

He knows my arguments.

A friend of mine read a post where I confronted the sin of homosexuality. This friend immediately shifted the topic to religious differences and hypocrisy among so-called Christians. This friend’s language became venomous and toxic as they tried to shift the focus elsewhere. That has probably happened to you.

I think it’s a very common strategy that when we start to feel conviction of sin, we shift the topic to comparison of others. I think this woman’s shift in topic is intentional. “I don’t want to talk about sin, let’s talk about religion and who’s right!” But notice, she didn’t disagree with Jesus. She said, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”² Whether she thought Jesus was THE prophet, the one promised in [Deuteronomy 18:15](#), or just an inspired prophet akin to those in the Old Testament, she did think that it would be a relief to discuss this longstanding debate between Jews and Samaritans.

What was the debate?

- Both the Jews and the Samaritans believed that God had commanded their forefathers to identify a special place for worshipping Him ([Deuteronomy 12:5](#)).
- Remember I taught that the Jews believed the whole Old Testament so they believed that Jerusalem was the center of worship, recognizing the entire Hebrew canon, chose Jerusalem ([2 Samuel 7:5–13](#))
- The Samaritans only believed the first five books of the Bible (The Pentateuch). When they read [Deuteronomy 27:4-8](#). They believed the place was Mount Gerizim instead of Mount Ebal as the passage reads.

Jesus is going to dismiss this argument as being irrelevant. The future of God’s timetable will in fact make both places of worship irrelevant. Once Christ came as the true “Temple” neither place has any significance. “. . . Both places would be obsolete soon and neither would have any role to play in the lives of those who genuinely worship God. Jerusalem would even be destroyed with its temple (a.d. 70).”³

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 4:19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 1584). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

Jesus knows what we really need to know

Jesus moves on toward the real issue of worship, which has nothing to do with geography. *“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”* (John 4:22, ESV). What is important is what one worships and how one worships. Both of those realities are found in the complete canon of Scripture. True worship, worship that ultimately will lead you to the knowledge of God and salvation through Christ is found in the complete canon of Scripture.

The Samaritans were not standing in that light, the Jews were. In short, our worship is regulated by Scripture.

Secondly Christ affirms that worship is *“. . . in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:23–24, ESV). (My goal starting in March is to break from this exposition of John for a few Sundays and discuss this issue of worship in more detail, in a series of sermons.) But for today let us make sure we know what Jesus is saying.

Jesus gives us 3 identifiable attributes of true worship: “God”, “spirit” and “truth”. It is clear by these words of Jesus that worship is Godward, God-centered, Spirit-empowered and Word-driven. Do you see the Triune God displayed? We worship God. We worship God by the Spirit. We worship God by the Spirit, and our worship is defined by Truth; Jesus being the Truth.⁴

The idea of a coming savior was not unknown to her. “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”⁵ What this woman understood at this point is not clear. She may have suspected that Jesus was in fact the Messiah that had been promised. Jesus doesn’t keep her in suspense. *“Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”* (John 4:26, ESV). He begins with the very important Greek phrase *egō eimi*, building on the self-revelation of God at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14, “I am who I am.” This is God’s true covenant name as Jehovah. Jesus is reiterating the main point of this story: “If you knew who I am”.

The disciples returned and the woman left her water jar and went into town. The insertion of John that she “left her water jar” is important. She is no longer thinking about water. She says to the town’s folk: *“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”* (John 4:29, ESV). “The woman’s question implies hesitation and doubt. The Greek text indicates that a negative response is

⁴ “True worship is empowered by “the Spirit of truth” (14: 17; 15: 26; 16: 13) and is in accordance with truth. It can occur only in and through Jesus, who is “the truth” (14: 6; see 1: 14) and the true temple (see note on 2: 19– 22).” - Zondervan. The NIV Zondervan Study Bible, eBook: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message (Kindle Locations 245697-245700). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 4:25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

expected: 'This cannot be the Messiah, can it?'⁶ "You don't suppose this could be the Messiah, do you?' would be a fair translation of her words."⁷

Summary

Please recognize that after all this conversation this woman is not convinced. But there has been a change. Notice:

- She had come to draw water! Water was the one thing on her mind. Relief from continually coming to draw water was how she spelled R-E-L-I-E-F. But now in her enthusiasm she abandoned her concern about water;
- Secondly, we note that she rushed back into town and boldly exclaimed to the town that this man was totally aware of her life. Before she met Jesus, she had come to the well alone, shamed by her past and responded as a social outcast; and lastly,
- The Jesus was being transformed before her eyes. At first, he was just a Jew – a Jewish man. Then he became a religious prophet. Now she wonders, "Is he the Messiah?"

APPLICATION

The point that John presses in this story is the reality that Jesus knows – He knows everything. During the ministry of Christ, there were times that He set aside His divinity, but other times where He displayed it. Earlier in John's Gospel, we see that occur in the life of Nathanael:

"Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"" (John 1:48–49, ESV)

To say that Jesus knows everything is to say that He is God – He is omniscient. He possesses perfect knowledge. God cannot learn anything. He does not discover anything new. He knows all things and all possible things.

If you are a Christian, what impact does that have on you to know that Jesus knows you perfectly, through and through? He not only knows what you have done, but He knows what you will do. He knows your motivation and your deepest thoughts. Yet, by faith alone, He justifies you, forgives you, adopts you into His family and sets before you hope and glory. Your past is forgiven. Your present is under His sovereign domain. Your future is secure. For God's elect people He makes it clear: "... I have

⁶ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Jn 4:29). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁷ *Expositor's Bible Commentary, The*, Pradis CD-ROM:John/Exposition of John/II. The Public Ministry of the Word (1:19-12:50)/A. The Beginning Ministry (1:19-4:54)/8. The Samaritan ministry (4:1-42)/b. The return of the disciples (4:27-38), Book Version: 4.0.2

loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3, ESV). It is a precious thing to know that Jesus knows us perfectly and still loves us eternally.

However, there might be someone here today who is not a Christian. What should it mean to you to know that God knows you perfectly? It should bring terror to your soul. You may stand before Him someday and see that He is aware of every single sin in your life – one sin will condemn you forever and ever. He already is aware of all your rationalizations, your arguments, your attempts to vindicate yourself. You will find that there is no place to hide and no argument to hide behind. David wrote, *“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”* (Psalm 139:7, ESV). It’s a rhetorical question. The answer is nowhere.

Your only hope is that you will today believe the Gospel; that you will hear the Good News and respond in faith.