

A WOMAN OF SAMARIA

Text: John 4:5-9

INTRO: The bitterness between Jews & Samaritans began in the days of Nehemiah. Remember that some 500 years before Nehemiah's time, God's people had been divided into 2 separate nations--Israel & Judah. About 200 years before Nehemiah's time, the northern nation of Israel with its capital in the city of Samaria had gone into Assyrian captivity. Their chief citizens & leaders were taken captive & transported to other parts of the world. Many of the lower elements of Israel's society were permitted to remain in the region of Samaria. Then numerous captives from among the Gentile nations were required to re-settle in Samaria. It was about 150 years later that the Chaldeans or Babylonians rose to power, took the southern nation of Judah into exile & made the captivity of God's people complete. Then, after about 70 years, Persia rose to power in the same part of the world, and Persian King Cyrus gave a decree permitting those descendants of Israel who desired to do so, to go back and rebuild the temple & re-establish themselves in the area of Jerusalem, 2 Chron. 36:23; Ezra 1:1-4. Most of those who returned were from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, but some from all 12 tribes returned, Ezra 2:70; 6:17; 8:35.

When those who returned from captivity began to rebuild the temple, the citizens of Samaria (now mostly a mixed race) offered at first to assist them. Nehemiah declined their offer, probably because of their mixed marriages & the mixed religion that had resulted from them, so they began to try to stop the temple from being built.

Later the Samaritans built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim, which was destroyed by the Jews during the period between the testaments,

but they continued to worship in a synagogue on that mountain.

The animosity that began in the time of Nehemiah had 400 years to fester by the time of Christ, so it is no surprise that "the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans."

I. THOUGH THE SAMARITANS WERE A CIRCUMCISED PEOPLE, THEY HAD REPLACED THE WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM WITH A WORSHIP OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING.

A. The woman's statement in vs. 19-20 contains an implied question: Who is right?

1. The Samaritans had perhaps misunderstood Deut. 11:29--or at least they cited it to "prove" their contention.

2. They missed the point of Deut. 11:29. They needed to see its application in Deut. 27:12-13.

B. The Samaritans would have known where the place of worship was to be if they had read Deut. 12:11-14; 1 Kings 9:3-7.

II. IN ADDITION TO OFFERING A WORSHIP TO GOD THAT WAS CONTRARY TO HIS REVEALED WILL, THIS WOMAN APPARENTLY TOOK LIGHTLY THE SERIOUS NATURE OF GOD'S MARRIAGE LAW & HIS WILL FOR THE HOME/FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, vs. 17-18

Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6

III. FURTHER, WE NOTE THAT HER MIND WAS CENTERED ON MATERIAL THINGS RATHER THAN ON SPIRITUAL THINGS, vs. 10-15.

IV. YET, WITH ALL THESE PROBLEMS, SHE WAS
BASICALLY HONEST, & THE LORD WAS ABLE TO
TURN HER THOUGHTS TOWARD THE SPIRITUAL,
vs. 19, 25-26.

V. AS SOON AS SHE WAS CONVINCED OF HIS TRUE
IDENTITY, SHE BEGAN TO BRING OTHERS TO
CHRIST, vs. 28-30.

VI. THIS NEW CONVERT OPENED THE DOOR FOR
OTHERS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD, vs. 39-42

CONCLUSION: All have sinned, Rom. 3:10, 23.
The Samaritan woman was not necessarily a lot
better or a lot worse than any of us. Jesus
will not reject any sinner tho comes to Him in
penitent obedience to His will, John 6:37.
All who believe on Him should help lead others
to the living waters.

La Porte, TX, November 16, 1980

Exton, PA, July 7, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 30, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 10, 2002