

## IF I BE LIFTED UP

### Part 3

#### The Evangelist and The Sinner

*John 4:1-42*

This the last part from a trilogy of Bible Studies based on “Lifting up Jesus”. At first, we learned from Jesus referring to His moment on the cross to save all humanity. Then we dissected the example of the bronze serpent and recognizing the variety of sins that beset us. Now we will look at a classic example from an unlikely evangelist to lift Jesus up in her community.

### BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1.) What were Jesus and the disciples destination after leaving Judea? What town did he stop while traveling on the way? (For reference look at the map to get an idea of the journey and location.)

**John 4:1-6, Genesis 33:19-20**

Here is an interesting note about Jewish hours at the time of the New Testament. According to several sources, an hour was different then our standard way of looking at it. At that time the hour in the *Halacha*, was calculated by taking the total time of day (sunrise to sunset) and dividing it up into 12 equal parts. When this happens, an hour can vary greatly depending on the season. For example in July there are approximate 15 hours of daylight compare to 9 hours in January. So for July an hour is 75 minutes long compare to in January an hour is 45 minutes long. In the case of the Biblical passage we’re studying, half of the day would have past and the Sun was at its highest point.

2.) What was Jesus request after meeting the Samaritan woman? What was her response and why did she feel this way?

**John 4:7-9, Acts 10:28**

3.) Read the following Scriptures on a little background on Samaria. What does it say about their start and what happened to them. Especially look at the last text in the list.

**1 Kings 16:23-24, 2 Kings 3:1-3, Isaiah 8:4, 2 Kings 17:5-6, 24-41**

4.) What is Jesus saying to the Samaritan woman as encouragement?

**John 4:10-14; Isaiah 12:2-4; Isaiah 44:2-8; Romans 5:14-15, 20-21; Romans 6:22-23; Isaiah 55:1-2**

5.) What sin did Jesus reveal in the woman's life?

**John 4:15-18**

6.) During the New Testament, the Samaritans worshipped at Mount Gerizim while the Jews centralized theirs in Jerusalem. (Judges 9:7; Deuteronomy 11:26-29; Deuteronomy 12:1-6) What did Jesus have to say about the future of worship? How does this apply to us in our current day?

**John 4:19-26**

7.) What did the Samaritan woman do once she had an encounter with Jesus?

**John 4:28-30**

8.) What was the result of the impromptu ministry from the woman?

**John 4:39-42**

#### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

A.) Why is it important for people to drink from the water that Christ is referring to in question 4?

B.) Describe how Jesus revealed the sin the woman was doing in her life. Why was it important for Him to treat her the way he did?

C.) When dealing with people how should we approach everyone (regardless of sin or issues)? What examples can we learn from Jesus and apply it to how we relate to people?

D.) When Jesus is talking with the disciples while the Samaritan woman was away preaching, He was comparing ministering to people with reaping and sowing (John 4:32-38). What can we learn from this passage in applying it to the ministry of the church? In addition, what can we learn regarding receiving credit in ministry?

E.) The Samaritan woman was not a scholar or some professor when it came to being an evangelist. However, she was able to convince her fellow townspeople to at least come and experience Jesus' words and love for themselves. What lessons can we learn from this example and how can we be of service to God right now?

#### Just a Thought

Remember that anytime your encounter and relationship with God can lead others to Him. The Samaritan woman came from adultery, only thinking about getting water, avoiding people, and going about her business. Instead, she became one of the best evangelist that could be chosen for Jesus Christ. She didn't have to convert everyone, only lead them to the Lord and once they have a chance to experience Jesus love, then her community believed for themselves. So will the people you touch and meet when you allow them to have a chance to experience the love of God. Below are a list of links that can help with future study and understanding.

#### List of Links

Jewish Hour – Chabad organization

[http://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/526872/jewish/Hours.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/526872/jewish/Hours.htm)

Brief information on Samaria

<http://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/ot/samaria.html>

Background help on the Well Experience

<http://www.whiteestate.org/books/da/da19.html>

Lesson written by: Elder Ricky R. LaVaughn

For more information visit: <http://www.lavauri.com/menbiblestudy.html>

Map of Israel in New Testament

[http://www.bible-history.com/maps/palestine\\_nt\\_times.html](http://www.bible-history.com/maps/palestine_nt_times.html)

