

John 11 – Ancient Enmities: God’s Faithfulness

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John 4:1-6

Appears to Follow Previous Lesson

- John Apostle places this after the previous discussion concerning John Baptist’s declining ministry
 - Jesus departed, again, for Galilee ostensibly to prevent issues between Himself and the Pharisees
 - Jesus driven to go through Samaria, ostensibly by the Holy Spirit, when Jews routinely refused to transverse Samaria for any reason; why? To save an outcast

Understanding Judah

- Major Tribe - Judah
 - Contained Jerusalem and the Temple
 - Carried into Diaspora and returned
 - Maintained a *form* of authentic Judaism



Understanding Samaria

- Major Tribes – Ephraim & Manasseh (Egyptian)
- Worship: Dan & Bethel
- Later: Mt Gerizim
- Permanent Captivity
- Golden Calf & Idolatry



When Did the Split Occur?

- The single kingdom, Israel, divided after the reign of Solomon due to dissent over taxes, fulfilled Samuel (1Sa 8:10-18)
- However, the split between the actually began with the sale of Joseph into Egyptian slavery by his brothers (Ge 37:12-36)
- Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, adopted by Jacob to inherit with Jacob's violent sons (Ge 48:5-6)

Two Tribes had Egyptian Origins

- Joseph, Vizier of Egypt, married Egyptian priestess (Ge 41:50-52)
 - Manasseh - Forgot my father's house (Egypt) (Mizraim or מצרים)
 - Ephraim - Fruitful in land of my affliction (Canaan) (Kna'an or כנען)
- These tribes formed northern power base, followed mother, offsetting Judah southern power base, several mothers

Idolatry in the North

- Tribe of Dan - Part of the tribe moved north to re-establish themselves (Jd 1:18)
 - They took Jonathon, grandson of Moses, to be their priest to established idol worship
 - When Jeroboam established Northern Kingdom he revived Golden Calf (Apis) worship to keep the people from returning to Jerusalem, reuniting with Judah (Ex 32:1-4; 1K 12:25-33)

Idolatrous Jews – Political Aims

- Samaritans were idolatrous Jews with Egyptian roots
 - Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery forcing the issue
 - Golden Calf worship (Egyptian Apis) first god of very ancient Egypt and undergirded pantheon
 - Invisible God seen as standing on bull, symbol of power
 - Hebrews' god seen the same as Apis - Golden Calf
 - Revived in Northern Kingdom syncretic with Torah

<https://www.ancient.eu/Apis/>

No Lost Tribes of Israel

- When Assyria conquered Israel in 722 B.C. they only deported the ruling class of Samaria and Shechem, there never were Ten Lost Tribes of Israel (2K 17:1-6)
- Other peoples were immigrated into Israel but did not turn to God who then allowed wild beasts to roam the land (2K 17:24-41)
 - Assyrian king brought back a priest to teach the people about the god of the land
 - Syncretic form of Judaism and idolatry developed

Return from Diaspora

- The peoples of Samaria remained in their land during Judah's captivity forming their own Torah worship
 - Ezra refused to allow them to help rebuild the Temple (Ez 4:1-3, Ne 2)
 - Nehemiah refused to allow them to participate in worship because of Moses instruction of Moabites (Nu 17)
 - Yet, Ruth (Moabitess) allowed to marry Boaz which later became Davidic lineage (Ru 4:9-17)

Judaism – Poor Missionaries

- Jews, upon returning to the land should have been missionaries to Samaria, teaching them true worship
 - Jews saw them as competitors and therefore unsavable
 - Ostracized, rather than evangelized, Jews avoided all contact whenever possible
 - Thus, these two competing rigid religions claimed Torah basis but relied on codified traditions

Intertestament Period

- Hidden history of Samaria
 - Named after major city of the region which Alexander destroyed and resettled with Greeks
 - People made Shechem their major city, later Samaria
 - They received permission to build temple at Mt Gerizim
 - Temple destroyed by Maccabees (Jews) – Competitors
 - Samaritans developed own rigid Torah religion

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14444-samaritanism>

Samaritans Not Innocent Victims

- There were centuries of hostility between Jews and Samaritans by the time of the Gospels
 - Both were rigid, intolerant systems, not submitting to God's truth, perverting symbolism of His cultic rites
 - Both were Hebrews though Samaritans had more Egyptian and formal idolatrous influence
 - Then comes Christ to His people in Samaria

Jesus Driven into Samaria

- Christ driven into Samaria for this confrontation
 - Jesus had forbidden his disciples to enter Samaria when He sent them out to the "lost sheep of Israel" Mat 10:5-6
 - Christ, as leader, undertook the difficult task alone
 - As we will learn He, rejected by Jews, goes to those, rejected by Jews, to call to Himself those who rejected His ways given to Moses at Mt Horeb

Jesus' Stop Highlights Their Roots

- Jesus stopped at Sychar near field that Jacob gave to Joseph at Jacob's well
- Highlights differences of Jews and Samaritans
- God's calling irrevocable (Ge 8:15, 10:6-12 Ro 11:29)



High Noon Confrontation

- Jesus came to Jacob's Well near Sychar at noon being hot, tired and thirsty
 - Jewish day began at 1800 but daylight hours numbered from 0600 (1st hour) with 1200 being the 6th hour
 - Christ, though God subjected to same stresses as all people denoting His humble humanity (Jh 1:58; He 4:15)
 - He emphasized mercy but not at the expense of truth

Christ as God Hidden

- Christ did not come as God Almighty demanding immediate compliance nor with recriminations
 - He came as lowly slave of God in human form to provide Himself as the answer for sin
 - He presented Himself with a need (thirst) while providing an answer to the woman's need (life)
 - Yet, His mercy never compromised the truth

Conversation on Two Levels

- As with Nicodemus, Christ speaks on spiritual level while the woman speaks on physical level; but, unlike Nicodemus she accepts Jesus as Messiah - God
- Samaritans knew of Messiah and expected Him according to their tradition just as the Jews expected Him according to their tradition: both saw Him as man

Jesus Comes to Save

- New Testament Christians will not appreciate the ancient historical roots nor apprehend the similarities between the religiousity of both groups
 - Both were entrenched, unyielding with deep grudges
 - Both believed they were right in their belief systems
 - Both looked for Messiah according to their worldview
 - Neither expected Christ as lowly slave of God

Christendom Makes Same Errors

- Pietistic Christendom seeks a god according to its own worldview that will accept it as alright if it at least tries to do good, most of the time {works}
 - They eschew God's truth for the lie of Lucifer (2Th 2:9-10)
 - Following empty philosophies they justify themselves (1Ti 1:8-11, 2Ti 3:1-5)
- They seek to make God a sinner as themselves

The Truly Saved Are Found

- Those truly saved do not seek God but are found by Him (Ro 1:10-15)
 - The penitent do not force God on others but demonstrate God in the midst of their own failures since all saved still retain the flesh and still sin (1Ti 1:15, Ph 2:1)
- Jesus came to bring life as noted in opening hymn; she is first saved person in John, a Samaritan woman (Jo 1:11-14)