

"ONLY FOR THE UNDESERVING"

She was an outcast by virtue of her ancestry, part Jew and a daughter of an idolatrous, heathen nation – a Samaritan. She was an outcast of her own community by virtue of her immoral lifestyle – married five times and now in an adulterous relationship. Yet she is the very person Jesus first entrusted with the knowledge of who He was – the promised Messiah – the Christ of prophecy John 4:25, 26:

"The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [He]."

In the previous chapter of John, Nicodemus, an honest-hearted leader of Israel, didn't even get such an open answer to his question of who Jesus was. But the woman Jesus met at Jacob's well wasn't even asking the question, "Who are You?," and yet Jesus saw her, loved her, and wanted her to know He was the answer to the hidden questions of her heart – the satisfaction to her deepest need.

These two stories, found in consecutive chapters of John's gospel, illustrate how Jesus reveals Himself to us. It's to the undeserving that Jesus comes. He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. He is "a Friend of sinners" Luke 7:34 — a Savior to the one who has lost his way: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? Luke 15:4; "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." John 10:11.

It is because of grace, not merit, that Jesus seeks us out, reveals Himself to us, and receives us into His favor. And Jesus promises that no one who comes to him – no one who is thirsty – no one who looks to him, will ever be brushed off, but will receive his gracious, unmerited gift of life and an eternal home in heaven.

Knowing that God's amazing grace is only for the undeserving gives me hope!

In Him, Pastor Chilson



Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "<u>Watch</u> and <u>be ready</u>, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of
West Valley Ministries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be prepared for that
Great Day.



A SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS HER SAVIOR

John 4

1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria. **5** So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from [His] journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. **7** A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. **9** Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 18 "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you [Jews] say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 "God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [He]."



- In this story, why does Jesus stop at Jacob's well? What time of day is it when He does?
- 2) Who were the Samaritans?
- 3) What story does Jesus later tell of a Samaritan?
- 4) Why does the woman at the well question Jesus' reason for asking her for water?
- 5) Did Jesus answer her question? How is this conversation similar to Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in Chapter 3?
- 6) Is the woman testing Jesus by her questions? What is going on in her head?
- 7) How does Jesus "clothe" the "extraordinary" with the "ordinary" in the language He uses?
- 8) How does Jesus prepare the soil of the woman's heart to receive the amazing revelation He is about to make about Himself?
- 9) Why would Jesus be so candid about who He was with this particular person, and so evasive with so many others?
- 10) What do you take away from this story as to how Jesus might view you and what His attitude is toward you?

"THE END-TIME AXIS OF EVIL"

Evil forces have been actively at war with Christ and his Church since the beginning of time. It was so in Eden. And at the time of the Great Flood, less than 1500 years after creation, God said:

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.

From the time the nation of Israel was born, heathen nations – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Rome — held in bondage and sought to destroy the people of God. During the Dark Ages, more than 50 million followers of Christ were thrown to lions, put on crosses, burned at the stake. There has never been a time that Satan and his agents were not in pursuit of Christ and His church. And so it will be until the "great rescue" of God's people by "the Rider on the White Horse" and the armies of heaven that follow Him:

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Revelation 19:11-14.

In the next few issues of the WVM Newsletter, I will expose the three players that followers of Christ need to be watching as we approach the return of Jesus. Because these players are working in a coordinated plot to oppose and ultimately destroy the true followers of Christ, I will be referring to them as the end time "Axis of Evil." The prophecies of Revelation name these characters as:

"The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet" (Revelation 16:13).

These three together form a coalition of power that will persecute the end time Church:

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea.... The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.... It was granted to him to make war with the saints for forty-two months [three-and-a-half years] and to overcome them.... Then I saw another beast [later called "the false prophet"] coming up out of the earth.... And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do.... He was granted [power] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. Revelation 13:1-2, 5, 7, 11, 14, 15.

In addition to persecuting the Church, these three characters will oppose the powerful testimony of the special messengers of God – "the two witnesses" and "the 144,000," as they carry the last message of warning to a world that is under the cataclysmic, warning judgments of God:

THE TWO WITNESSES:

"And I will give [power] to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [three-and-a-half years], clothed in sackcloth." ... 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike

the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. Revelation 11:3, 6-7.

THE 144,000:

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred [and] forty-four thousand.... Revelation 7:1-4.

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred [and] forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. They sang as it were a new song before the throne...; and no one could learn that song except the hundred [and] forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- 7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Revelation 14:1, 3, 6, 7.

The end time story of the Book of Revelation is one congruent account – **just one story**. And the power players in this incredible drama are **only three** — the dragon, the beast and the false prophet — not China, not Russia or Iran. Any part these nations play in the final events that precede the coming of Jesus is only as they "receive authority with **the beast** for one hour." Revelation 17:12, 13. The details of this story present a clear, understandable picture of a battle that rages against Christ and His Church as the Axis of Evil faces eternal defeat and destruction (Revelation 19:20 and 20:10):

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ... The devil ["the dragon"], who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone [with] the beast and the false prophet.

In our next issue we will expose the mastermind behind the final pursuit of the followers of Christ to the death – the arch enemy of Christ and his Church – the one who gives power and authority to the Antichrist. The Bible clearly exposes the "dragon", the first of the three characters who comprise the end time "Axis of Evil." Stay tuned for more great snapshots of prophecy!

Join us each week (2 p.m. Pacific and Arizona Time; 5 p.m. Eastern Time; 4 p.m. Central Time; 3 p.m. Mountain Time) for our class discussions. Click: https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor to join. To receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email with "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the subject line to: Pastor@wvetm.com. HELP US BUILD OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY OF FAITH!