

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 17-18, 2004

"Ministering While Physically Weary"

John 4:1-9

This weekend we will be examining the request that Christ made of the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-9 and her response.

Christ's initial request for a drink of water from the Samaritan woman on the surface appears very self-serving (John 4:1-8).

What led up to Christ asking for a drink of water from this Samaritan woman?

Jesus, though ministering in Judea, felt compelled to travel to the area of Galilee (John 4:1-3).

Jesus felt compelled to leave Judea for Galilee because the Pharisee's negative view of John the Baptist would invariably be directed toward Himself in light of His success.

The necessity of passing through Samaria was not geographically absolute. Travelers could also choose to circumvent Samaria by crossing over to the eastside of the Jordan River.

The necessity of passing through Samaria was not dictated by the need for rapid travel. Jesus had left Judea before any crisis between He and the Pharisees had developed.

The expression "had to pass through Samaria" points to Christ's mission. He was not just the light of the Jews, but of the world, which included Samaria (John 9:1-5).

The Jews and Samaritans both would claim that Abraham was their father, but they were now two distinct groups with open animosity toward each other.

The word for wearied (KEKOPIAKOS) means to "toil excessively."

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He doesn't use the word "please" but the Greek construction communicates a polite request.

Though the request for a drink of water was a sincere request based on real human thirst, Jesus was about to seize His first opportunity to bring light to a non-Jew.

The Samaritan woman sensed that there was more to Christ's request for a drink of water than simply satisfying His thirst (John 4:9).

Although "dealings" (SUNCHRATHAI) can mean "to associate with," it can also mean "to use together with."

What John meant to say is captured in the footnote in the NIV translation "For the Jews do not use dishes Samaritans have used."

The Samaritan woman was startled because His request involved the use of her utensil and she knew that from the Jewish perspective that this would spiritually defile Him.

We will never do great things for God until we are willing to minister when we are tired.