

Remembering the Gift 1

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What is the greatest gift you have ever received?

- For me [Pastor John], it was when Myra gave me Michelle.
- What can you say when someone gives you the most precious thing in his or her life?
- No one deserves for another person to devote his or her life to you.

God has done that very thing for all of us.

I John 3:16 – “We have come to know how much God loves us from this, because Jesus laid down his life for us!”

II Corinthians 9:15 – “Thanks be to God for his unspeakable and indescribable gift, [Jesus]!”

When you leave today, acknowledge the gift you have received from God!

A gift by definition is something unearned.

Once you try to earn the Gift of God, you lose both the gift and the accurate image of God.

Jesus purposely revealed himself as Messiah and the Way of Eternal Life to a Samaritan Woman:

John 4:4-9 – “Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’ ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”

The Jew and Samaritans hated each other:

Luke 9:51-56 – “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, ‘Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?’ ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went to another village.”

- They didn't ask for permission to destroy the Romans!

Why did the Jews and Samaritans hate one another so much?

- Nation divided into 2 nations
- Animosity began immediately
- Israel – 10 tribes to the North – King Jeroboam
- Judah – 2 nations to the South – King Rehoboam
- Samaria was the capital of Northern Kingdom
- Jeroboam changed worshipping in Jerusalem and set up false God.
- Samaritans began to intermarry with the Assyrians, contrary to Deuteronomy 7:3-5. This is why the Jews hated the Samaritans as "dogs," or "half-breeds."

John 4:10-19 – “Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’¹¹ ‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?’¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?’¹³ Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’¹⁵ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.’¹⁶ He told her, ‘Go, call your husband and come back.’¹⁷ ‘I have no husband,’ she replied. Jesus said to her, ‘You are right when you say you have no husband.¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.’¹⁹ ‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet.’”

God knows the worst things about us and still wants to reveal himself as the Savior of our lives.

The Gift is available to all!

John 4:20-27 – “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus declared, ‘Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know [false gods]; we worship what we do know [the living God], for salvation is from the Jews.²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.’²⁵ The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’²⁶ Then Jesus declared, ‘I who speak to you am he.’²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, ‘What do you want?’ or ‘Why are you talking with her?’”

John 4:28-35 – “Then, **leaving her water jar**, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,²⁹ ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’³² But he said to them, ‘I

have food to eat that you know nothing about.’³³ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’³⁴ ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.’³⁵ Do you not say, Four months more and then the harvest? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

Are you going to “leave your water jar”?

John 4:39-42 – “Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.⁴² They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.’”

Without you doing your part, they will never hear for themselves!