

An Ordinary Day

By Betty Harstad

“But whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

(John 4:14)

On what was probably just any ordinary day, a woman came out of her city in Samaria to draw water from a well. This was probably a daily and often mundane task. She did not know yet that on this very day, her life would be changed forever because Jesus and His disciples were passing through Samaria. Jesus stopped to rest at the well while He waited for His disciples to buy food. How it must have astounded this Samaritan woman when this Jewish man spoke to her. She knew Jews avoided traveling through Samaria because they despised the Samaritans. Yet, this Jewish man was talking to her! It wasn't ordinary small talk either – He was talking about things that really mattered. He even told her He could give her “living water” and “eternal life.”

This Man knew of her sinning ways without needing someone to advise Him! All the words He spoke were so extraordinary on this otherwise ordinary day that she perceived Him to be a prophet. She even wondered if He could be the Christ, and in answer, “*Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am He’*” (John 4:26).

After the disciples returned to Jesus, this woman left her water pot behind and went to tell the men of the city about this Man: “*Come, see a man who told me of the things I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?*” (John 4:29) Many Samaritans came out of the city to hear Jesus. Perhaps this woman stayed near Jesus the two days that He remained there to hear everything He had to say. “*And they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves’*” (John 4:42).

How she must have pondered over every word she heard later from anyone who had met with Jesus during His earthly ministry. How she must have listened intently when hearing news of His death, burial, and resurrection. How she must have continued to be amazed that this Man took the time to come to her in person with words of life as she realized He truly was the One sent by God the Father to be the Savior of the world. After His death and resurrection, He truly did send the Holy Spirit to be within those who believed, just as He had promised her that she could have “*water springing up to eternal life*” (John 4:14).

The words that He spoke to her are written down for all of us who came later. We are blessed to be able to hear (and read) the very same words that she heard so that we may be led to believe in the Savior just as did this Samaritan woman. “*Many more believed because of His word*” (John 4:41).

Believers on any day may “see” Jesus Christ in all of Scripture. Take the time to read Luke 24 when Jesus spoke to two disciples (after His resurrection) who were on the way to Emmaus. They were puzzling over the death of Jesus on the cross, and Jesus said they were “slow of

heart” not to believe all that the prophets had spoken. *“Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures”* (Luke 24:27). Soon their “eyes were opened” as they were given the great key to understanding Scripture – that He Himself is its subject and that in Him the entire Bible finds unity. No day is dull when the focus is on Him who opens our understanding through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. No day is dreary when believers read from that great Book or hear the Word when they gather together. No day is ordinary when we are in Christ.