

Providence (Divine Direction)

The worship of the Father is not confined to a place but rather an action of the heart. Second, all worship must be in keeping with the truth of God's revealed Word.

Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee and along the way he came to a town in Samaria named Sychar. The region of Samaria is a place that Jews normally avoided and would travel around it. In Sychar Jesus came to a place where there was a plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph, Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "will you give me a drink?" The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

Observe how casually this woman at the well was gained. Jesus and she were on their own business at this well. How often are we on our own business when an opportunity arises to talk to someone.

In this conversation Jesus tells the woman that "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." To this the woman said, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." Around this time as Jesus was ministering to this woman the disciples returned and were surprised to find Jesus talking with a woman. Being a Samaritan woman they never expected such a thing.

Now Jesus never went out of his way to seek Samaritans or Gentiles, always observing His own direction to his Disciples when they went forth to preach, neither did Jesus ever go out of His way to avoid them. Gentiles would seek him and in this case of the Samaritan woman, Providence threw her in his way. The disciples were afraid to question Jesus, but Jesus acted on the great principle which He Himself laid down in regard to the Sabbath—that "Not to do good, when it is in the power of our hand to do it, is to do evil." Had the disciples seen with their heart they would do what Jesus was doing, they would not have just been surprised at it.

Through this woman more would be gained, and perhaps the foundation of a great work in the country of Samaria. This woman told the Sycharites about her meeting with Jesus, they were assured in their faith by personal contact with Jesus. On their invitation Jesus spends two days in Sychar, by which the number of believers in Him is greatly increased.

This is what the Samaritans display—they first give credit to the woman's simple testimony, and let her bring them to Jesus, then they are satisfied with one brief interview with Jesus that he is the Christ, and invite him to visit them; and when he condescends to do so, His two day stay not only brings over many more to faith in Him, but raises that faith to a conviction never reached by the Jews and hardly attained by his own disciples that as the Christ he was the Savior of the world.

Just as John the Baptist was a "forerunner", the Woman at the Well became a forerunner by taking Jesus to her village and more forerunners were anointed there by receiving Jesus as their Savior. Today believers are forerunners that Jesus Christ has created you to be.

