

New Testament Reading 503 NB

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Assignment 6.4 (Duvall)

Article on Samaritan:

The conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus has always interest me, the main thing that make it so for me is the fact Jesus took the time to deliberately go through Samaria 1. Jesus knew the woman's need and 2. Jesus wanted the tension between the Jews and Samaritan to come to an end. The two commentaries that assisted me in knowing more about the Samaritan are *The NIV Application Commentary* by Gary M. Burge and *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* by Edward W. Klink 3. I have deduce the following:

The Samaritan as described by Edward W. Klink 3, (p.235) "difficult to define by precision... trying to do so will come through Jewish propaganda." The Jews and the Samaritans simply did not mix.

The bitter and political tension between the Jews and Samaritans were two centuries old, the Samaritans adapted the God of the Jews and they also worship the god of Babylon to which they were captured been apart of the Northern Kingdom.

The Samaritans acknowledge Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their fathers "our fathers worship in this mountain..." John 4:20 KJV

The Samaritans rejected the writings of the prophets 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles and also the histories Proverbs, Palms etc. They acknowledge however, the Pentateuch and their worship centered on the temple at Mont Gerizim, this is where Abraham first built an alter overlooking Shechem (Burge, p.140).

Samaritan women were responsible for water collection from the well, this is done early morning or at dusk. This was so to prevent from being in the hot Mediterranean sun additionally it was the place where the women will meet and talk.

The Samaritan also believed in the promise of the coming Messiah as declared in Duet. 18:18 "... a great prophet will follow Moses" Burge, (p.145).

All these listings above helped me to understand the reason why Jesus had to go through Samaria at that time of day during the hot sun, the Samaritan woman lifestyle and meeting up with the other women of the city would have meant she would have been ridiculed; Jesus understood the woman's need for truth and to fill her up with him so she can be honest with herself and be filled with the living water of salvation; I believe also Jesus wanted to show his disciples too that salvation is for the Samaritans too, he wanted them to see people through the eyes of love. Jesus also wanted the Samaritans to know who God is and that he is to be worship in spirit and in truth in a personal way in their life and not at a particular physical location.