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Assignment 6.4 (Samaria)

1.

Read the conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus and record all the ways the article helps you understand it.

In transportation, commerce and communication, Palestine was relatively underdeveloped. Nevertheless, several main roads deserve mention. One led southwest from Jerusalem past Bethlehem through Hebron to Gaza, and northeast from Jerusalem, past Bethany to Jericho, then north up to the Jordan Valley and the west side of the sea towards Capernaum. To avoid Samaria whose inhabitants the Jews despised, Jews often travelled this road in going between Galilee and Judea. Another road led from Jerusalem straight up through Samaria to Capernaum. It was along this road that Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's Well (John 4:1-42)

2.

Hatred also arose between the Samaritans and the Jews for the following reasons. It was the custom of the Galileans at the time of a festival to pass through Samaritan territory on their way to the Holy City. On one occasion, while they were passing through, certain of the inhabitants of a village called Ginae' ...joined battle with the Galileans and slew a great number of them... The (Jewish) masses ...

taking up arms ... fired and sacked certain villages of the Samaritans. (Josephus, Jewish Antiquities

20.6 1 118-24)

(information out of Survey of the New Testament (GRUNDY)(page 258)

3. Jesus tells a parable of the Good Samaritan, a person from Samaria. (Luke 10:30-37)

I wonder why it was the Samaritan that showed the kindness?

Probably because in that day Jesus was trying to teach the Pharisees and the Jews of the day that they weren't doing what they should be. (Luke 10:30-37)

Also the Samaritan woman said to Jesus at the well, "You being a Jew ask me for a drink? For Jews have no dealing with Samaritans." (John 4:9)

But this Samaritan man in Jesus' parable (Luke 10:30-37) Sets this animosity aside and has compassion on the man, taking care of his wounds and expenses and will repay the rest.

It's interesting too, that in the woman in the well (John 4:1-42) she says to Him "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our Fathers worshipped at this mountain and You Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship (John 4:19-20)

This mountain she is referring to is nearby Gerazim, where the Samaritan temple lies (in Ruins probably now if it's still there)

The disciples go into Sychar the Samaritan City to buy food.

This article helps me understand the relationship between the Jews and the Samaritan. They hated each other. Jesus came to set things straight with both nationalities to get them to love each other.

Sychar. The name of the city means: drunken, hilarious, merry, deeply drunk, madness, falsehood, deceit, deception, disappointment, foolish, impious and ungodly.

Jesus is the Son of God and He isn't those things. The woman at the well may have been some of those things (for she had 5 husbands and the one she was with was not her husband) but she certainly wasn't a liar. For Jesus said she spoke the truth, she had no husband (John 4:17)

Since the name has something to do with water, Jesus chose aptly the place He chose to reveal who He was to a woman at the well near Samaria (John 4:26)

The woman said to Him that she perceives that He is a prophet, for He knew all about her. (v 19) Our Fathers' worship on this mountain and You Jews say Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worshipped (v 20)

4.

The Jews and the Samaritans shared the Pentateuch, or the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, or the first 5 books of Moses.

The Samaritans knew the Bible, specifically the Torah, because they were the descendants of the Israelites, who received the original scriptures.

While the Assyrians deported and resettled the people of the Northern Kingdom, the remaining Israelite population in Samaria and the Assyrian settlers developed a mixed society that preserved and followed the Sacred texts. They believed they represented the true and unaltered form of the Israelite religion. The Samaritans claim direct descent from the Israelite tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Unlike the Jews who were exiled to Babylon the Samaritans remained in their land and continued to preserve the Torah. (hence the woman's understanding of it)

The people who became the Samaritans were a mix of the original Israelites and the foreign settlers brought by the Assyrians, who were then instructed in the worship of Yahweh.

The Samaritans believe their version of the Torah is the unaltered original while they believe the Jewish Bible as altered over time.

They hold that Mount Gerazim as the true place of worship (as the woman said) not Jerusalem. (v 20)

The woman must have been humbled in a way. She didn't defy Jesus. She didn't try to argue with Him. But she said "Give me this living water" and she also said "Come, see a man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ"?

Jesus didn't judge the woman, but He said to her "Woman the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain or in Jerusalem worship." He told

her that she does not know what they worship and the Jews do. Salvation is of the Jews.

The woman didn't argue but she went and told others. She understood that the hour is coming when the true worshipers will worship God with Spirit and Truth and the Father is seeking such to worship Him (v 22-23)

It is interesting to note that the hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans was widespread. The disciples whom Jesus taught even felt hatred towards them as mentioned in Luke 9:54.

It was all because the Samaritans did not receive Him because His face was set towards Jerusalem (Luke 9:51)

The Samaritans did not accept Jesus' teaching at that time because His face was set to go to Jerusalem and maybe they thought "Who are these Jews? We don't want them here", because they didn't want the Jews either. But Jesus rebuked James and John and said "You do not know what Spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. (v 55-56)

However, in Samaria at the time of the woman at the well the Samaritans received Jesus gladly and urged Him to stay with them and He stayed 2 days.

In this incident Jesus' face wasn't set towards Jerusalem, but to save the lost in a Samaritan village.