

AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

A Samaritan woman had no idea that her day would finish the way it did, as she went as usual doing her task for that day. It was about noon when she had the most important encounter, which changed her life for eternity. A woman with a spiritual need, seeking and searching the truth about spiritual things, the Samaritan woman was thirsty for the water that would satisfy her eternally. She knew enough about the Law to understand some aspect of it and follow it to some extent, but not in its entirety, for she was bathed in idolatry mingled with the Law's tradition. YAHSHUA met her at the heat of the day, when she came to fetch water, while He sat down to rest by the well. The Bible says that "It was necessary for Him to go through Samaria" on His way to Galilee from Judea. God's plan for the Gentiles was being fulfilled in that ordinary day. It started with YAHSHUA asking her for a drink. The Samaritan woman presented Him a question which defined the separation between Jews and Samaritans, since the Jews had nothing to do with them. She asked, *"How is it that You being a Jew ask me, a Samaritan woman for a drink?"* The Samaritans were people of low class to the Jews due to their background origin.

The Samaritans occupied the country formerly belonging to the tribe of Ephraim and the half-tribe of Manasseh. The capital of the country was Samaria, formerly a large and splendid city. When the ten tribes were carried away into captivity to Assyria, the king of Assyria sent people from Cutha, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim to inhabit Samaria (2 Kings 17:24; Ezra 4:2-11). These foreigners intermarried with the Israelite population that was still in and around Samaria. These "Samaritans" at first worshiped the idols of their own nations, but being troubled with lions, they supposed it was because they had not honored the God of that territory. A Jewish priest was therefore sent to them from Assyria to instruct them in the Jewish religion. They were instructed from the books of Moses, but still retained many of their idolatrous customs. The Samaritans embraced a religion that was a mixture of Judaism and idolatry (2 Kings 17:26-28). Because the Israelite inhabitants of Samaria had intermarried with the foreigners and adopted their idolatrous religion, Samaritans were universally despised by the Jews." (GotQuestions.org)

Since the disciples had gone to buy food, YAHSHUA had the time alone with the Samaritan woman at the right time, at the right place in God's timing. This is a beautiful picture of God's plan for the Gentile nations. From the beginning, before the foundation of the world, He knew what was to come. The future was as the present to Him, for He is the author of time. Nothing was hidden from Him in His plan of salvation to be established. The meeting with the Samaritan woman was in His plan as He chose her to be His witness and messenger to her nation. His love was greatly expressed when YAHSHUA met and revealed to her Who He was, for Jews and Samaritans did not communicate with each other. His message was readily accepted and through her, many of her people came to know the Lord YAHSHUA as their Messiah. This lost sheep didn't hesitate to believe and to marvel at YAHSHUA'S words and compelled by the message, she took off to spread the news to all she knew. As she was ready, so were her people,

eager to hear more of the message she passed on to them. The Bible says that she left her water jar and went away to the town and began telling the people, saying, Come, see a man Who has told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Christ? So, the people left the town and set out to go to Him (John 4:28-29). Numerous Samaritans believed in YAHSHUA because of her testimony, and many more believed because of His personal message. Upon their request, YAHSHUA stayed with them for two days. That was a true revival that broke out from a people rejected by the nation of Israel, but loved by the Lord YAHSHUA, who had come to save the lost, the sinner, and the sick.

In Him there is no exception of people, for all have sinned and have been separated from the glory of God. Only through YAHSHUA men could be reconciled to God. For this reason, He had come so that all might be saved. The Samaritan woman together with her people embraced YAHSHUA'S teaching and asked Him to remain with them longer, at which YASHUA stayed two more days with them. I wonder where He was lodged and cared for these two days, while God's plan was shining forth into the far future concerning the Gentile nations. Two days speak of the two thousand years given to the Gentiles when God's grace would be expressed to them through the message of the Gospel- THE GOOD NEWS. Salvation to all who will accept the message. While YAHSHUA'S own people rejected Him, His message, miracles and wonders, the Samaritans couldn't have enough of Him. We read in John 1: 11-12: *He came to that which belonged to Him and they who were His own did not receive Him and did not welcome Him. But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name.*

At the right place and time is, without a doubt, opportunities given us in our life-time. Not always perceiving the opportunities, we fail many times, missing God's plan for us. As a result, many live their lives regretting it. Happy with a second chance given, we realize God's mercy toward us in the passing of time. *It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving kindness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness (Lam. 3:22-23).* The Samaritans rejoiced meeting YAHSHUA. His message was well received and accepted by them. They said to the woman, "Now we no longer believe just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ- Messiah" (verse 42). A declaration that sprung from the heart of those who believed the message. How many more Samaritans believed the message when they declared it to them, we do not know. But this encounter made a great difference in the lives of all who came to hear YAHSHUA. In that opportune time, in God's plan for the Gentile nations, the Light shone into their hearts and no longer they lived in darkness of their religions and false gods. They had drunk of the Living Water and their spiritual thirst was satisfied; they ate of the Living Bread and were born anew to a new life in Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

There is a call to the world to come to YAHSHUA to be forgiven and healed. The time is now. The word of God gives a warning concerning this saying, Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion and their provocation and embitterment in the day of testing in the wilderness where your fathers tried [My patience]

and tested [My forbearance] and found I stood their test, and they saw My words for forty years... accordingly, I swore in My wrath and indignation, They shall not enter into My rest” (Heb. 3:7-9,11). The Samaritans heard the message and believed it in that frame of time given them, when at the right place and time, they met the Messiah and accepted Him. **To all mankind, place and time have been given the opportunity to hear the message of the Gospel and to receive it.** It will be to us to heed to the call in that right place and time. Solomon has said, *I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all (Eccl. 9:11).* Be aware that opportunity that comes to you has a short span in time. Embrace it and run with it, your future depends on it.