

Prayer List

Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Judy
Rose

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Who had a vision of a woman with eagle's wings flying to the desert?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Goliath - 1 Samuel 17:44

Published by the church of Christ which meets at 755 Pinole Valley Road, Pinole, CA 94564, Phone (510) 724-1994, (Mailing address: church of Christ, P.O. Box 453, Pinole, CA 94564)

Pinole Tidings

www.pinolechurchofchrist.com

Vol. 15, No. 44 - August 17, 2014

The Woman at the Well

Rick Shammass

“Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink” (John 4:5–7).

It is doubtful the Samaritan woman expected anything but to draw water on this journey to the well. It was probably a daily routine for her. Like her, we often become so set in our daily lives it becomes not only common but routine. We think we know what each day holds and what each action will bring forth.

Even as she approached the well and saw the man resting there, it could not have occurred to her what was about to happen. Not in her wildest imaginings could she have thought the man watching her was the Lord, God of all creation. Mankind if they think about God at all often view Him as being distant and only watchful over more important matters than themselves. We are reminded of

the widow with her two mites (Mark 12:41–44). She may well have seen that man watching those who cast their money into the treasury. However, little did she know He was God or much less that He was aware of her, or He was interested in her, or He knew all about her and was pleased with her. Consider the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43–48). She came to Jesus knowing who He was, yet believing herself to be unknown to him. She saw herself as just a face lost in the crowd that could never draw the attention of the Lord. But as Jesus turned and began to look through the crowd she soon realized that, “she was not hid”(verse 47). Like these people, we often live our daily lives feeling we are distant from God. We think too often that our actions, thoughts and our very lives are hid in the vast sea of humanity. Yet, Paul declared the timeless truth that God is “... not far from [anyone] of us” (Acts 17:27). Indeed He knows and He cares (Psalms 139).

It is due to her lack of understanding of who He is that she answers His request, “Give me to drink.” For she said to Him, “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans” (verse 9). There was great enmity between the Jews and the Samaritans. The division was religious in nature and each side believed their own to be right. The truth of the matter is whatever division existed between these people and regardless who was right or wrong, He was to her at this moment, just a thirsty man and an opportunity for her to do good. How often people use their differences as an excuse to do harm rather than good. Those differences often are real, and perhaps one side is indeed wrong and the other right. We often use the fact that we are right, (or our belief

that we are right) as justification to treat others in a spirit of meanness. In doing so, we are acting as if God is distant, not aware, or does not care, even though we know what is right and what is wrong in our actions. If we would stop and think of His presence and His will, we would behave differently. Thus, Jesus points out to her, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (verse 10).

Jesus ultimately reveals Himself to her, as He does to us, through speaking to her. He reveals to her also he knows her life, her thoughts, her actions and communicates His interest and concern for her. Through this revelation she comes to realize she is not routinely living in the presence of man but the Messiah. Indeed she behaves differently leaving her pot at the well and runs into the city to share with her people, the good news. Come and see, the Christ, the Savior of mankind! He is here! It is interesting how the things of this world and our own selfishness disappears, when we are able to realize the presence of God and His great love and will.

Like her, we need to consider and reflect the wonderful news of God’s presence in our daily lives and routines. Wouldn’t you behave differently towards your children, friends, spouse, brethren, the store clerk who errs with our order, the man who wrecks our car, our enemies, and worst of all that “fool who dares to disagree with us,” if we knew that Jesus was watching and judging us by our actions? Let us strive to remember, He is ever present (Philippians 4:5).