

CHRIST -- THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

from the Gospel of John 4:5-42

Jesus went to a city in Samaria, where Jacob's well is. He sat by the well, while His disciples went to buy food. A woman came, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She said, "How can You ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink? Jews don't associate with Samaritans."

Jesus answered, "If you knew Who asked you for a drink, you would have asked, and He would have given you living water. Whoever drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman asked Jesus to give her some of the living water. Jesus said, "Get your husband, and come here." The woman answered, "I have no husband." Jesus said, "You have said the truth. You had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."

She told him that her people worshiped on a nearby mountain. (They were pagans.) Jesus said, "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

The woman went into the city and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me everything that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. ...

So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed two days and taught them. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Note: The woman's original Samaritan name is not known, but the Orthodox church knows her as Saint Photina (in Greek) and as Saint Svetlana in Russian. She was baptized after the Resurrection, and then preached the Gospel, along with her sisters, daughters, and sons. They all become martyrs. The Greek word "photina" and the Russian word "svet" means "enlightened."

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

"A fountain of water ...



"... springing up into everlasting life."

SYMBOLS OF OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST

LIVING WATER

Christ said, “whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

ETERNAL LIFE: Water is necessary for all life. Christ taught that our lives are not only physical lives on earth, but spiritual too; with Him we can have Eternal Life.

BAPTISM: In Baptism our lives are dedicated to God, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

HOLINESS: Water is made Holy in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and it is then used by the Priest or Bishop to bless everything that is dedicated to our Orthodox Christian living, including us, the people.

PURITY: Christ’s forgiveness of sins makes our souls clean and pure, just as if water washes the sins away.

THE CHURCH: Water flows and is a symbol of the Church itself, which makes all of us Orthodox persons one with Christ and with one another, as our Orthodox Church life flows through its yearly cycle.

SYMBOLS OF OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christ is called “the Light of the World.”

The Samaritan woman’s name, **Photina** or **Svetlana**, translates to the word “**enlightened**” in English.

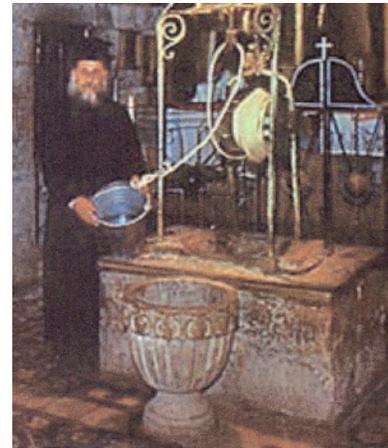
When Christ first met the Samaritan woman at the well, she was a pagan. That means that she did not know about our God or that Christ is the Savior.

In ancient times, the Samaritans were a people who were not liked by most other people. In fact, the Jewish people avoided them and would not even speak with them.

But Jesus not only talked with the Samaritan woman. **He also taught her, using the symbolism of water, about Salvation and Eternal Life**, and she was one of the first Gentile (non-Jewish) persons to whom He revealed that He is Christ the Savior.

The Samaritan woman became enlightened. When we say that someone has been “enlightened,” it means that they realized something important that they did not know before. The Light of Christ led her to become a Saint.

1. Jesus said to worship God in spirit and _____.
A. on a mountain B. in truth C. only in Jerusalem
2. Water and Light are symbols of _____.
A. Names B. Salvation C. Wells
3. Christ offered _____ water to the Samaritan woman.
A. Cold water B. No water C. Living water
4. Those who follow Christ can have _____ Life.
A. Everlasting life B. A long life C. An easy life
5. Orthodox Church history teaches that Christian name of St. Photina or St. Svetlana, translates to _____ in English.
A. Educated B. Enlightened C. Excellent



DID YOU KNOW?

The Old Testament Book of Genesis (33:18) states that Jacob bought land on which he pitched his tent. He dug a well there for water for his family and his flocks of sheep.

The well is still there! It lies within an Orthodox monastery of the same name, in the Palestinian city of Nablus in the West Bank. In the monastery is the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Photina.