

Think about it ...

1. Jesus said to worship God in spirit and:
 - A. on a mountain
 - B. in truth
 - C. only in church
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. cherry water
 - C. living water
4. Those who follow Christ can have _____ life.
 - A. eternal life
 - B. long life
 - C. easy life
5. Orthodox Church history teaches that the Christian name of St. Photina or St. Svetlana, translates to _____ in English.
 - A. educated
 - B. enlightened
 - C. excellent

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

“A fountain of water ...



“... springing up into everlasting life.”

CHRIST -- THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

from the Gospel of John 4:5-42

Jesus went to a city in Samaria, to the place where Jacob (of the Old Testament) built a well. 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 have anything to do with Samaritans."

Jesus answered, "If you knew Who asked you for a drink, you would have asked, and would have been given living water. Whoever drinks of the water here will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty. The water that I give will become in the person 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 the Messiah (Christ) is coming." "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 wanted 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, but because we heard Him ourselves 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 "light" because they were "enlightened."

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Samaritan woman's name, **Photina** or **Svetlana**, translates to the word "**enlightened**" in English.

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

In ancient times, the Samaritans were not liked by most other people. In fact, the Jewish people 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.**

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; and with Him we can have Eternal Life.

BAPTISM: When we are Baptized, 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 washed the sins away.

THE CHURCH: Water flows and stands for 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.