



Study Guide

Summer 2012 Sermon/Study Series

www.rbcpc.org/prodigal-party

“The Prodigal Party”

Week #4

July 28/29, 2012

The Prodigal Daughter

Scripture Reference
Prodigal Party Series – Week #4
“The Prodigal Daughter”

Read and reflect on the following scripture: John 4: 4-38

John 4: 4-8

Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Notes:

John 4: 9-14

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Notes:

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Scripture discussion questions

John 4:4-14

1. Why is Jesus in Samaria? How do you think the disciples feel about being there?
2. How would you describe the woman’s first impression of Jesus? Why does she seem so defensive?

John 4:15-26

1. Why did Jesus raise the issue of her immoral lifestyle?
2. Why do you think she keeps trying to change the subject to their differences in belief and culture?

John 4:27-41

1. How do the disciples act like the older brother in the “Prodigal Party” parable?
2. Describe what you think must have happened for two days in the Samaritan village when Jesus and his disciples arrived.

Sermon

1. Bruce says there are three characters in the story of the woman at the well and the prodigal party for the lost son. Who are the three characters in each of these stories? How do they relate to each other?

2. Most Jews did not go through Samaria. Why would John write that “he HAD to go through Samaria”? Who directed Jesus to that place on that day?

3. What was the traditional role of an older brother in Hebrew culture? How would you compare Jesus as an older brother and the disciples as an older brother to the Samaritan woman?

4. How did Jesus see the woman versus how the disciples saw her? How much do you think the disciples struggled with whether or not to join the party in the Samaritan village?

Life Application

The Prodigal Parties parables force us to consider whether or not we would join in a party for the return of a lost one. If Jesus is our perfect older brother who comes out searching for us when we were lost, how can we emulate him with our lives today? To whom might God be calling you to be a true older brother?

Prayer

Pray that the Lord will show you someone you could love and bless like a true older brother. Ask the Lord to set up an encounter if you are supposed to do something specific.