

God works in _____ ways.

- Samaria was to be avoided. (Jesus *had* to pass through...John 4:4)
- A woman was spoken to by Jesus. (Men were never speak to a woman in public, even if she is your wife.)
- A woman was believed by men. (A woman of questionable morals was listened to by men, and women perhaps in the town.)
- Jesus stayed 2 days where Jews would normally not go.
- The power of a simple conversation. (Many believed because of what she said.)

A few weeks ago, we learned about a demon-possessed man who Jesus cast demons from into the pigs. He sent that man forth to be a missionary. He rescued James in the pacific through of a seagull in WW II. He saved the wrong sort of woman at the well to tell others about Himself. And He did something miraculous in each of our hearts!

Personal Growth:

What kinds of missionary birds has God sent into your life or the lives of those you know?

What kinds of surprising ways has God worked in your life?

Write out a list of things you can praise God for today...

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Praise Be To God

Topic: God works in surprising ways

An old man walks down a Florida beach. The sun is setting. The beach is vacant. Aside from a few joggers, the man is alone. He carries a bucket in his bony hand. It is a bucket full of shrimp. It isn't for him, it isn't for the fish. It is for the sea gulls. He walks out onto an empty pier and walks all the way to the end. The time has come for the weekly ritual. He stands and he waits.

The sky becomes a mass of dancing dots. The silence of the evening gets loud with screeching birds. They fill the sky and then cover the moorings. They are here to meet the old man. For about a half hour, the old man stands on the pier, surrounded by the birds of the sea. Finally, the bucket is empty. After the food is gone, the gulls linger. They stay as if they are attracted to more than just the food. They perch on his hat. They walk on the pier. And they all share a moment together.

Lesson:

Matthew 15:29-32: Jesus has compassion and feeds _____.

- The word for baskets at the 5,000 event is *kophinos* – is small and is used by an individual like a lunch box (12 for the 12). In the 4,000 event the baskets were large – *spuridas*. Paul was lowered over the wall in Damascus in one (7 full here).
- He taught and healed the 5,000. He only healed the 4,000.
- The 5,000 was for one afternoon. The 4,000 He was with them for 3 days.
- The 5,000 event He was with Jews. The 4,000 event, Gentile territory.

Bible Extra:

- Christ ended His ministry in Galilee feeding the 5,000.
- Christ ended His Gentile ministry feeding the 4,000.
- Christ ended His Judean ministry feeding the disciples in the upper room.



Matthew 15:31: _____ **God**
They praised the God of Israel. And Jesus said, ³²"I have compassion for these people."

According to both Matthew and Mark:
Jesus didn't preach to the crowd, He just reached out to help them.

The crowds were amazed when they saw all Jesus had done (had not fed the 4,000 yet).

The Matthew 14 event (Jesus fed 5,000) and Matthew 15 event (Jesus fed the 4,000) are the only places where Christ uses the word *compassion* about Himself.

Eddie Rickenbacker:

A B-17 Flying Fortress captained by Eddie Rickenbacker was lost over the Pacific in October 1942. They were lost, out of radio range, ran out of fuel, and crashed into the ocean. The nine men aboard spent the next month floating in 3 life rafts. They battled the heat, the storms, and the water. Sharks would ram their boats. After only 8 days their rations were eaten or destroyed by saltwater. It would take a miracle to survive.

One morning after their daily devotions, Rickenbacker leaned his head back against the raft and pulled his hat over his eyes. A bird landed on his head. He peered out from under his hat. Every eye was on him. He instinctively knew it was a sea gull.

He caught it and the crew ate it. The bird's intestines were used for bait to catch fish...and the crew survived to tell the story. A story about a stranded crew with no hope or help in sight. A story about prayers answered. A story about a visitor from an unknown land traveling a great distance to give his life as a sacrifice.

The rest of the story:

It just so happens there was another miracle, maybe the biggest miracle of all that happened out in the Pacific that day. James Whittaker was one of the men on those 3 rafts. James was an unbeliever. The plane crash did not change that. The days facing death did not change that.

James was very irritated with another of the crew, John Bartak. John read his Bible privately and out loud. The protests from James did not change that. Day after day of hearing God's Word read aloud was plowing the soil of his heart.

One day, in the morning after a Bible reading, the sea gull landed on Captain Rickenbacker's head. And at that moment James became a believer.

Matthew 6:31-34: The sea gull had _____ from Scripture:

What does this incident teach us about God?

Of this story one man said, "It isn't the circumstance that matters; it is God in the circumstance. What is meant by this statement?

John 4:3, 7-42:

Sychar was ancient Shechem and was the capital city of the Samaritans.

- This is where Abram first came when he arrived in Canaan from Babylonia. Gen.12:6
- This is where God first appeared to Abram in Canaan, and renewed the promise of giving the land to him and his descendants. Genesis 12:7
- This is where Abram built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord Genesis 12:8
- This is where Jacob came safely when he returned with his wives and children from his sojourn with Laban. Genesis 33:18
- This is where Jacob bought a piece of land from a Canaanite named Hamor, for 100 pieces of silver. Genesis 33:19
- This is where Jacob built an altar to the Lord, and called it El Elohe Israel. Genesis 33:20
- Sychar (Shechem) was also the place where Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, was raped—and the sons of Jacob massacred the men of the city in retaliation. Genesis 34
- This is where the bones of Joseph were eventually buried when they were carried up from Egypt. Joshua. 24:32
- This is where Joshua made a covenant with Israel, renewing their commitment to the God of Israel and proclaiming, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Josh. 24

Bible Extra:

John 4:24 "God is Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

1. *God is spirit* is one of the four descriptions of God found in the New Testament. The other three are *God is light* (1 John 1:5), *God is love* (1 John 4:8, 16), and *God is a consuming fire* (Heb 12:29).

"Truth" in this context contrasts with the hypocrisy that characterized so much of Jewish and Samaritan worship, which is still present in worship today. It is sincere, God-centered worship rather than just going through motions or worshipping for what we can get out of it instead of as an offering to the Lord. True worship is all about Him, not about us. Matt Redman's song, "Heart of Worship," expresses this well: "I'll bring You more than a song, because the song itself is not what You've required. You search much deeper within than the way things appear. You're looking into my heart." Tom Constable

2. What is worship? Let me give you a definition: *Worship is "honor paid to a superior being."* It means "to give homage, honor, reverence, respect, adoration; praise, or glory to a superior being." Essentially, then, worship is giving - giving honor and respect to God. J. MacArthur

3. Together the words "spirit and truth" mean that real worship comes from the spirit within and is based on true views of God. Worship must have heart and worship must have head. Worship must engage your emotions and worship must engage your thought. Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full of unspiritual fighters. Emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates flaky people who reject the discipline of rigorous thought. True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. John Piper

4. "The word "spirit" does not refer to the Holy Spirit but to the human spirit. Jesus' point here is that a person must worship not simply by external conformity to religious rituals and places (outwardly) but inwardly ("in spirit") with the proper heart attitude. The reference to "truth" refers to worship of God consistent with the revealed Scripture and centered on the "Word made flesh" (Christ) who ultimately revealed His Father." John MacArthur

Jesus had to pass through Samaria...

Had to: Dei describes that which is under the necessity of happening or which must necessarily take place.

In John's Gospel its use involves **God's will or plan** (see below). John has 10 passages that speak of the sense of **divine necessity**. In other words, whenever John uses the impersonal verb *dei* the necessity involves God's will or plan:

1. John 3:7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"
2. John 3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must** the Son of Man be lifted up;"
3. John 3:30 "He **must** increase, but I **must** decrease."
4. John 4:4KJV And he **must** needs go through Samaria.
5. John 4:20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men **ought** to worship."
6. John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth."
7. John 9:4 "We **must** work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work."
8. John 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I **must** bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd."
9. John 12:34 The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man **must** be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"
10. John 20:9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He **must** rise again from the dead.