

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Lawrence

**SUBJECT:** Jesus Reinterprets Worship  
February 7, 1982

Lesson	Scripture
The Pitcher and the Curve	John 4:7-9
A Tale of Two Wells	John 4:10-14
A Lesson in God's Geography	John 4:19-21
How-To in Worship	John 4:22-26

Background Scripture...Jn. 4:1-26

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Two thousand years ago, even pagans recognized the widespread practice of worship. Jewish worship in Jesus' day was based on Old Testament truths and practices. It was centered in the Jerusalem Temple, but also held in other synagogues at various places.

John 4:1-2 states that the Pharisees began to compare John's ministry with that of Jesus' ministry: saying that John had more followers and baptized more people. This was a false rumor, because Jesus didn't baptize. His disciples baptized (John 4:1-2). When Jesus heard the rumor "He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee." (4:3). In an effort to break down racial barriers, He "must needs go through Samaria." (4:4). The Jews traveled in a way to avoid contact with the Samaritans.

Jesus stopped near the city of Sychar around the sixth hour (noon). He met a woman who would become an instrument through which He was to reveal Himself as the Messiah.

### LESSON EXPLAINED

The meeting of Jesus and the woman at the well is one of the finest examples of personal evangelism to be found in the Scriptures, for He planned to reach an entire community in order to make the spread of the gospel easier following His death, resurrection and ascension.

Jesus established rapport with the woman by actually throwing her a curve: He began on a plane of common interest: they were both physically thirsty. When He asked her for a drink, she became evasive, probably because Jews never asked favors from Samaritans, and also He spoke to her (a woman) in public which violated a custom. She said "you are Jew and I am a Samaritan - how can you ask me for a drink?" Then Jesus answered, "If you only knew what God gives, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water" (TEV). Noting that Jesus had no vessel of His own from which to drink, and the fact that He had spoken to her in public, she became confused. Her mind was earth bound, "living water" for her meant fresh water. She thought that only Jacob (their father) could get water from this deep well, since she noted that Jesus had nothing to draw water.

Verse 14 shows that Jesus is continuing with His Spiritual theme. He emphasized that dependence upon literal water, requires one to return often to the well. He referred to the water that sprang from an inner source, providing everlasting life. This is one of the great verses of John's Gospel or even in the entire New Testament.

Notice in verses 16-18 (not printed) Jesus told the woman to go get her husband and return to him. He knew, however, her marital status, but Jesus probably wanted to startle her into admission of her past, and help her to realize a need for a spiritual rebirth. She was apparently shocked at the information Jesus had about her life; so she said unto Him, "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." (vs. 19). She then tried to change the conversation on religious lines, but Jesus gave a surprising answer. He declared that the worship of God need not be restricted to a local shrine. Jesus placed emphasis, not on where "our fathers worshipped, but on exalting God in worship."

Jesus said the hour was now at hand, those who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit, not in meaningless ceremonies at Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim. The woman learned who God was through Jesus when He said, "I that speak unto thee am He."

### CLOSING SUMMARY

Jesus asked the woman for a drink; if she had known who He was, she would've asked Him for a drink. He knew all about the woman, but He loved her and wanted her to enjoy a whole new life. Her new life began when she left her water pot, and carried the message to the city, saying: "come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (4:29).

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JIANGSU PROVINCE

...Song and dance ensemble

## Chinese Song And Dance Group To Perform Locally

By Gayle Hinson  
Post Staff Writer

Arts and Science Council announced Monday, February 1, that the first U.S. tour by a dance company from the Peoples Republic of China will premiere in Charlotte in March, co-sponsored by NCNB and Jefferson-Pilot Broadcasting Company.

The Song and Dance Ensemble of Jiangsu (Yong Sue) Province will be on a two-month tour of the Southeast and the West. The cultural and friendship tour will open with a series of performances at Ovens Auditorium and in city schools March 16-18.

This group is from the southern part of China and will tour the southern part of the U.S. Mrs. Rebecca Des Marais, general manager of Dance Charlotte, said that the thrust of the trip is a "people's tour" to put the ensemble in touch with people more representative of U.S. culture than that in larger cities, such as New York.

Other cities hosting the ensemble are Winston-Salem, Chapel Hill, Shelby, Atlanta, Columbia, Charleston, Jacksonville, Gainesville and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The China Ensemble will also send an art exhibit to Charlotte to coincide with the troupe's visit.

The group numbering 41 people, will be guests at a reception and banquet at Queens College on Monday, March 15. The banquet and all Charlotte performances are under the auspices of Dance Charlotte. On Tuesday, March 16, at 8 p.m. the first performance will be at Ovens Auditorium followed by a Wednesday morning performance for local and area students also to be held at Ovens. On Thursday, the troupe will visit a local school for an informal presentation.

Mrs. Des Marais said, "Our community will be treated to one of its finest cultural events ever when this highly acclaimed troupe performs here."

Mrs. Des Marais and Carl L. Cox, vice president of Dance Charlotte, traveled to China this winter to meet with officials of the China Performing Arts Agency to contract for this tour.

The ensemble was founded in 1956. They have won several national competitions throughout China and have toured Korea, Japan, Vietnam and some African countries. Arts and Science Council president said, "We're delighted the Arts and Science Council is able to participate in making it possible to bring this outstanding group here."

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