

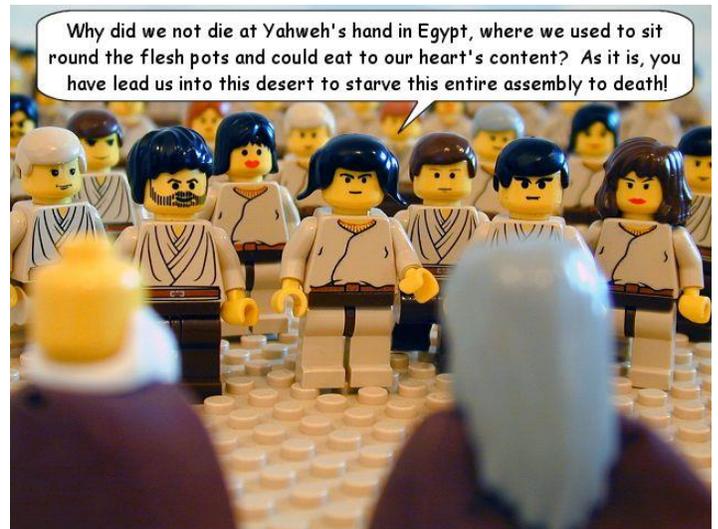
## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

**Feb. 7, 2016**

- Exodus 16-18 – The testing of the people of God; counsel of Jethro.
- John 4:1-26 – The woman at the well.
- Song of Solomon 2:8-13 – The lovers praise each other.

### Reflections:

1. Exodus 16-18. Note the attitude of the people of God as they faced difficulties. Instead of trusting the Lord, they ascribe evil intents to Him—what lunacy! There really is no excuse for their attitude. They saw the mighty power of God in the 10 plagues and in deliverance through the Reed Sea. However, before they could have the capacity to enter God’s promised land, they needed to develop virtue. Virtue is developed under testing, at least in the post-Fall world. It is in testing that reveals our character. Anyone can say that he is trusting God when things are going well. What about when they are not? Are you able to love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind when you are faced with painful trials? Consider

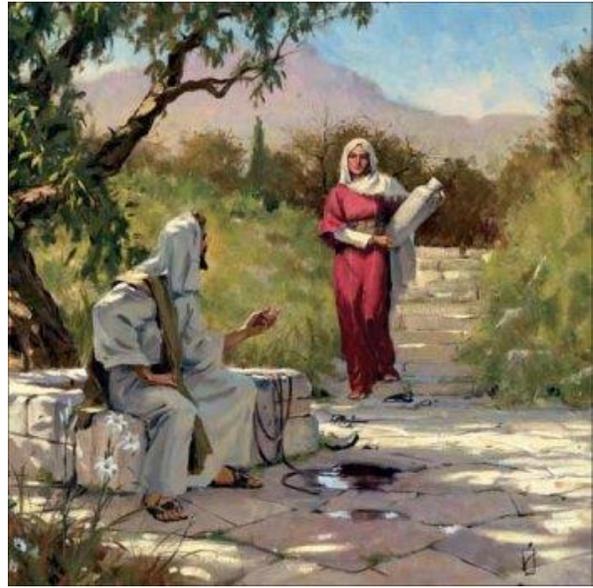


**Habakkuk 3:17** Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-- <sup>18</sup> Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

It takes real character and virtue to rejoice in the Lord when temporal life issues suck! There is no shortcut or magical spiritual formula for the development of virtue. It takes working through the difficulties by love for God in a second person relationship that transcends everything else. This does not diminish the fact that trials are often very painful and burdensome. However, the bottom line really is about seeing God, not temporal resolutions to the difficulties, as our greatest good. Nothing less than a transcendent perspective will bring transcendent joy regardless of the difficulties of life.

2. John 4:1-26. This is the second interview of the Lord recorded in the Gospel of John.

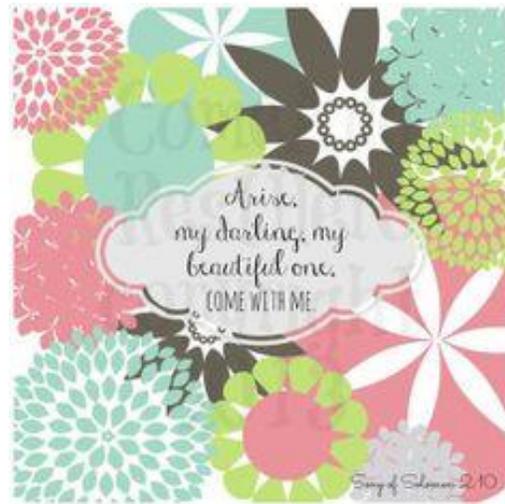
The first one was of Nicodemus in the previous chapter. This second interview is another illustration of the fact that “He knew what was in a man” (2:25). The Samaritan woman contrasts sharply with Nicodemus. He was seeking; she was indifferent. He was a respected ruler; she was an outcast. He was serious; she was flippant. He was a Jew; she was a despised Samaritan. He was (presumably) moral; she was immoral. He was orthodox; she was heterodox. He was learned in religious matters; she was ignorant. Yet in spite of all the differences between this “churchman”



and this woman of the world, they both needed to be born again. Both had needs only Christ could meet. It really does not matter about our past or the lot that the Lord decided for us. All are saved by grace and only Christ can fulfill the eternal longings of every soul.

3. Song of Solomon 2:8-13. As Solomon approached his beloved’s home, she excitedly described him coming as a young stag.

This emphasized his attractive appearance, strength, and agility. He approached the wall around her parents’ home and then peered through the lattice, being very anxious to see her. Solomon, her lover, asked his darling to go for a walk in the countryside. The elaborate description of spring was probably meant to do more than simply emphasize the beauty of the setting. It is likely that he was also describing their relationship. In a sense when one falls in love the feeling is like spring for everything seems fresh and new. The world is seen from a different perspective, which is how Solomon felt when he was with his beloved.



Licit romantic love is a wonderful blessing from God. It is a love that each spouse should guard more than any other human love. Never let anything come between you and your spouse. Satan loves to destroy the love relationship between a husband and wife because more than any other relationship, it depicts the relationship of Christ with the church. If we ever catch ourselves speaking negatively about our spouses, we should bite our tongues. The last person we should ever put in a negative light is our spouse. It is as ugly as it is dishonoring to the Lord who provided him or her.

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don