

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

“COULD THIS BE THE CHRIST?”

Although we usually hear about Christ's encounters with large groups of people, the setting for Sunday's Gospel is markedly different. Today, we find the Lord engaged in a one-on-one conversation with an unlikely individual. More than a few eyebrows must have been raised when Jesus enters into a lengthy dialogue with a SAMARITAN WOMAN. At that time, Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies, and women were not considered important enough to participate in intellectual discussions!

The conversation begins innocently enough. Weary from a tiring journey, Christ sits down near a well in the town of Sichar and asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. After satisfying HIS PHYSICAL needs, Jesus proceeds to teach the woman about “living water,” which can forever quench all of her SPIRITUAL longings. He patiently instructs her concerning how to worship God, and Who God really is. “God is Spirit,” Christ tells her, “and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The Samaritan woman is impressed with the wisdom Christ possesses, and she comments that she is aware that a Messiah is coming, “. . . Who will tell us all things.” It is then that the Lord shares the greatest of truths with her: HE IS THE MESSIAH!

The Gospel concludes with a wonderful lesson for all of us. Many others from the village come out to meet Christ, and they recognize Him as the Saviour, not because of the woman's testimony, but because of what they heard for themselves. We ALL must come to know Jesus on our own.