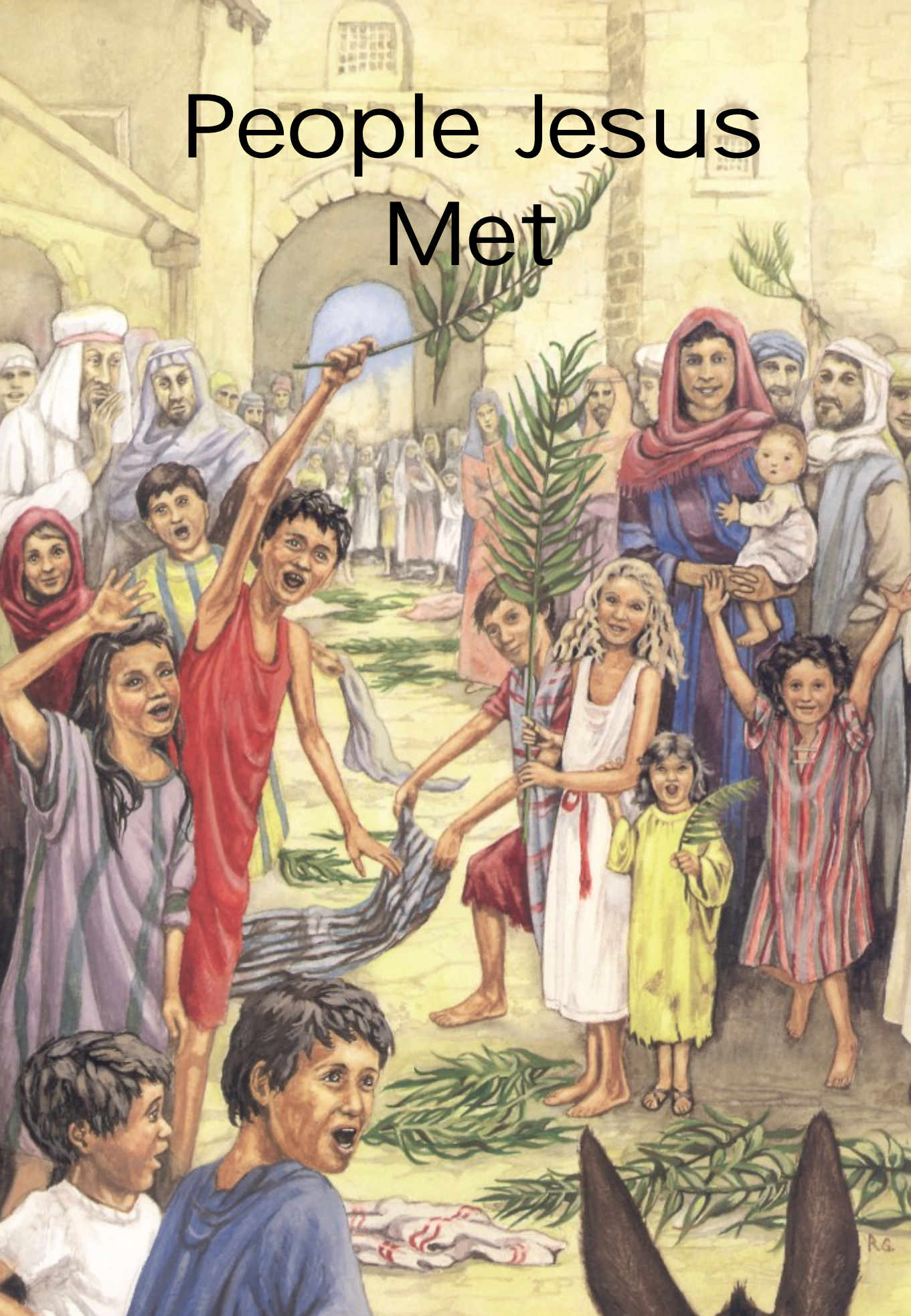


People Jesus Met



Published by:
Gospel Standard Trust Publications

1991

ISBN: 0 903556 85 5

Copyright © 1991 B. A. Ramsbottom

People Jesus Met

by
B. A. Ramsbottom

GOSPEL STANDARD TRUST
PUBLICATIONS
1991

12(b) Roundwood Lane
Harpenden, Herts, AL5 3BZ
England



John the Baptist

Crowds of people were going out into the wilderness. See them leaving their homes. Some were coming from the great city of Jerusalem. Some were coming from the little towns. Some were bad, unkind people. Some were people who thought they were good. Some were soldiers. There were all sorts of people.

What were they doing? And why were they going into a wilderness? A wilderness is a place where no one lives. Not much grows there. The ground is hard and rocky. What did they want?

They were going to see a man named John. We usually call him "John the Baptist." They wanted to listen to him.

I wonder if the people were surprised when they saw John for the first time? He was quite young but he had long hair and a long beard. He wore very rough clothes (they were made out of hair from camels) and round him he had a leather belt. He lived all alone out in the wilderness. The only thing he could find to eat was honey (which the bees made in the rocks) and little flying creatures called locusts (which he caught).

But John was a good man. He was a man of God. And as he preached the people listened. He told them they were sinful. He told them God was angry and

that they needed to repent – to be sorry for their sins and to leave them. All of us need to repent. May we ask God to give us repentance.

Now watch what John is doing! See him taking these people out into the River Jordan (which flowed nearby) and dipping them underneath the water. He is baptizing them. Not everybody! Only those who were really sorry for their sins.

Then one day the Lord Jesus Himself came to see John. He too asked John to baptize Him. At first John said “No”; he was not good enough to baptize Jesus his Lord and Master. And he could not understand why Jesus wanted to be baptized; He was not a sinner. But then John did as Jesus asked him.

But now what wonderful things happened! As John was lifting up the Lord out of the water, a beautiful dove came down and lighted on His head. It was not an ordinary dove. It was the Holy Spirit coming from heaven like a dove. And then a voice could be heard speaking from heaven – the voice of God the Father. It said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

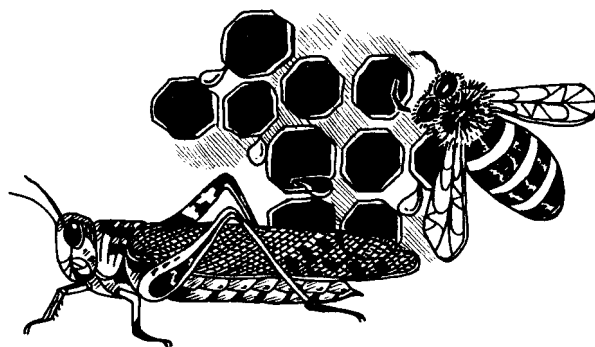
Another day, as John was preaching, the Lord Jesus came again. John was so pleased. He looked at Jesus and cried, “Behold the Lamb of God!” What a lovely name for the Lord Jesus, “the Lamb of God!” A Lamb – so gentle and tender, so pure, but a Lamb who one day would be killed.

The people began to leave John and go with Jesus. But John was very happy. He loved the Lord Jesus dearly.

And the Lord Jesus dearly loved John. Do you know what He said about him? That of all the people who had ever lived, there had never been a greater man than John the Baptist.

You can read about this in Matthew chapter 3; Mark chapter 1, verses 1 to 11; Luke chapter 3, verses 1 to 22; John chapter 1, verses 29 to 37.

Ask God to give you grace to repent and to believe on the Lord Jesus. Only those who repent and believe are forgiven.





The Woman at the Well

One day Jesus was very, very tired. Did you know that Jesus sometimes felt tired, just as we do? You see, He was a real Man though He was Almighty God.

The Lord Jesus was on a long journey. It was the middle of the day when the sun was really hot. As well as feeling tired, He was thirsty. I wonder if you have felt really thirsty? So He sat down to have a rest on a well. It was a famous well called “Jacob’s Well.”

As He sat there a woman came along to the well. She was carrying a waterpot so she could draw water. Probably she would be carrying it on her head.

Now this woman was a bad woman. And though she did not realize it, Jesus knew how bad she was and the bad things she did. The Lord Jesus knows all about each one of us.

Jesus asked this woman if He could have a drink of water. She was very surprised but she began to talk to Him.

But soon she realized that there was something different about the Lord Jesus. She began to think He must be a prophet. How could it be that He knew all about her? She had never seen Him before.

Then He began to talk about giving her what He called “living water.” Whatever could He mean? He

had no bucket or waterpot and the well was very deep. She was bewildered.

What did He mean? Really Jesus meant this. God's blessings are like a drink of lovely cool water to those who are thirsty. May the Holy Spirit teach us what "living water" is so that we thirst for it.

When the woman found out that Jesus knew all about her bad ways, and that He was a prophet, she thought she would talk to Him about all sorts of things, and ask Him all sorts of questions. Perhaps she wanted to change the subject.

In the end she cried out, "When the Messiah, the Son of God, comes to this world, He will be able to tell us the answer to all these questions."

What a surprise she got! Jesus said, "I am He."

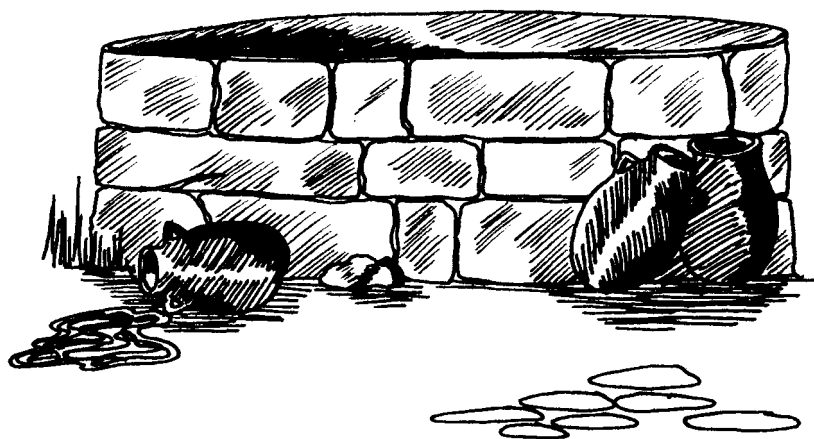
Really the Lord Jesus made Himself known to this poor, sinful woman more clearly than to anyone else He met. What must she have felt?

You see, Jesus loved her. He found her out. He showed her her need. He forgave her. She would no longer live a wicked life now.

Do you know what she did? She told everyone about this wonderful Person she had met. And do you know what else? She forgot all about her waterpot. She left it at the well. She had got something better.

You can read this story in John chapter 4, verses 1 to 42.

Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you what “living water” is.



The Woman in Simon's House

When Jesus was here on earth, there were some people who did not like Him. They were His enemies. They were called Pharisees. They thought they were very good – but really they weren't. They did not like Jesus because He told them about the bad things they did.

But one day one of these Pharisees asked Jesus to go for dinner. His name was Simon.

We wonder why he asked Jesus to his house. Well, we do not know. But we know that when Jesus arrived, he did not treat Him very kindly. In Bible days, if a person came to your house, you always washed his feet with water (people's feet got very hot and dusty) – but Simon did not.

Anyway, the meal began. They started to eat and talk. But who is this? And what is she doing? She is a woman everyone knows; she has been a very bad woman. However did she get in?

But watch her! She is crying – she feels so sorry about the bad things she has done – and she cries so much that her tears fall on Jesus' feet. Now she bends down and begins to dry them with her long hair. Now she is kissing them. How much she must love the Lord Jesus! But now she is pouring beautifully smelling ointment over His feet to cool and refresh them.

Simon watched with amazement. But he was not very pleased. He also began to think some very unkind thoughts. He thought, “Everyone says Jesus is a prophet. He can’t be – or He would have known who this woman is. She is a sinner.”

Now Jesus knew everything Simon was thinking. Did you know that He knows everything that you think? No one else can know, but Jesus does.

Then Jesus told a little story. Once there was a man with a lot of money. He lent some of it to two different people; they would have to give it back to him. But to one he gave 50 pennies and to the other ten times as much, 500 pennies.

When the time came for them to give him his money back, they couldn’t. They had spent it. They had not one penny left. Now they could have been sent to prison, couldn’t they? But the man was very, very kind. He said, “I will let you off.” They must have been very, very glad. What a nice story!

But then Jesus turned to Simon. He asked him a question, “Simon, which of these two do you think would love the man most?”

It was an easy question. Of course, the man who had been let off the 500 pennies he owed. Quickly Simon answered.

But why was Jesus telling this little story? Simon soon knew.

Jesus turned and said, “Simon, you never washed

My feet. This woman has washed them with her tears, and wiped them with her long hair. You never kissed Me. This woman kissed My feet. You didn't anoint My head with ointment; this woman has anointed My feet. That is why I told the story. She has had many, many sins forgiven – so she loves Me very, very much.”

Only Jesus can forgive sins. So He said to the woman, “Thy sins are forgiven.” How happy she must have been! She went away with her heart full of peace – a loving follower of the Lord Jesus.

You can read this story in Luke chapter 7, verses 36 to 50.

We too need forgiving. And no one can forgive us but the Lord Jesus. There is a beautiful word: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

