

People Jesus Met, part 34 – The Woman at the Well (Being Witnesses for Christ)

“So Jesus left Judea and went back to Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria.”

John 4:3, 4

The Samaritans

- *Assyrians exported most of the Jews from the Northern Kingdom (Samaria) in 721 BC*
- *Assyrians imported Gentiles from all over their empire*
- *The remaining Jews intermarried with the Gentiles*
- *Producing a race of half-breeds called the “Samaritans”*

“So Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar . . .” John 4:5

“Jacob’s well was there and Jesus, tired as He was from His journey, sat down by the well.” John 4:6

“And a Samaritan woman came to draw water. So Jesus said to her, ‘Please give me a drink,’ – for His disciples had gone into the city to buy food.” John 4:7, 8

“The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, ‘How is it that you, as a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink?’ (For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans).” John 4:9

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you understood the gift of God, and who it is that’s asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’” John 4:10

“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give Him will never thirst again.’” John 4:13, 14

“The woman said to him, ‘Sir, please give me this water, so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.’” John 4:15

“Jesus said to her, ‘Go call your husband and return.’” John 4:16

Then the woman said, ‘I have no husband.’” John 4:17a

“Jesus said to her, ‘You’re right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands and the man you are now living with is not even your husband. What you’ve said is quite true.’” John 4:17b, 18

“Then the woman said to Him, ‘I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called [in Greek] the Christ), and that when He comes, He will explain everything to us.’” John 4:25

“Then Jesus said, ‘I who speak to you am He.’” John 4:26

This is the clearest declaration of His Messiahship that Jesus has made to anyone up to this point in time.

If you’re ready to do business with God, God is always ready to reveal Himself and do business with you!

“Just then, Jesus’ disciples returned and were surprised to find Him talking with this woman. But none of them dared ask Him why He was speaking with her.” John 4:27

“Then, the woman left her water jar and went back into town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this man be the Messiah?’ So the whole town came and made their way toward Jesus.” John 4:28-30

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Do you not say, “Four months more and then comes the harvest?” Behold, I say to you, “Open your eyes and look at the fields. I tell you, these fields are already white for harvest.”’” John 4:35

Jesus: “Open your eyes, fellas, and look at the fields of humanity: these fields are ready for harvest now!”

“So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they urged Him to stay with them and He stayed there two days. And because of His words, many became believers.” John 4:40, 41

“Then they said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said, but we have heard Him for ourselves and now we know that this man is indeed the Savior of the world.’” John 4:42

George Barna

“A recent nationwide study we conducted among unchurched adults indicated that 25% would attend a church if a friend ever made the effort to invite them.”

“Our best estimate is that the unchurched population of this country is roughly 60 to 70 million people, which means that 15 to 18 million adults are waiting to be asked to go to church.”

“That’s more people than live in all of Belgium, or Holland. It’s twice the population of New York City.”

What Barna’s report tells us is that there are people who are spiritually open to Jesus Christ in our world today if we will simply tell them about Him.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the harvesters are few.” Matthew 9:37

So What?

Question: *What was Jesus’ purpose in talking to this lady?*

Answer: *His purpose was unashamedly evangelistic*

Every conversation that Jesus had with every non-believer He met was an overtly “evangelistic conversation.”

We need to enter into every encounter with people hoping and praying that it will turn into an “evangelistic conversation.”

Principle #1 – Deal with the interested

“If you understood the gift of God, and who it is that’s asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.” John 4:10

Jesus didn’t rush in and share the Gospel with the “woman at the well.” He dangled some “bait” in front of her to see if she was interested in spiritual things.

“Nobody can come to Me unless the Father is drawing them . . .” John 6:44

This is the first thing we want to find out: Whether the “drawing ministry” of the Holy Spirit is full and complete in this person’s life

We find this out by dropping a spiritual teaser

- *If they grab it, then we continue to Principle #2*
- *If they don’t grab it, then we switch our strategy from preaching to praying*

“When preaching fails, try praying.” Robert Murray McCheyne

Principle #2 – Emphasize repentance

“Jesus said to her, ‘Go call your husband and return.’ Then the woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’” John 4:16, 17a

Here in step #2, Jesus is forcing this woman to confront and acknowledge the sin in her life.

“I preach to both Jews and Gentiles alike that they must repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ.” Acts 20:21

Biblical Repentance:

#1 – Willingness to admit our sinful behavior before God

#2 – Willingness to turn from it as a part of embracing Jesus Christ as our personal Savior

If a person is not ready to repent – they are not yet ready to come to Christ.

We must tell people the “whole counsel of God”

- We must help them understand that they are sinners in the sight of a holy God and under God's judgment because of their sin
- Only when people understand this will the love and mercy of God make any sense to them

“It is the Holy Spirit who convicts (convinces) people regarding sin . . . and judgment.” John 16:8

Principle #3 – Keep people focused on Jesus

“The woman said, ‘Our fathers worshipped on this mountain but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’” John 4:20

“The time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . The time is coming, and has now come, when God's true worshippers will worship Him in spirit and in truth . . .” John 4:21-23

“Then the woman said, ‘I know that the Messiah is coming.’ . . . Then Jesus said, ‘I who speak to you am He.’” John 4:25-26

Jesus says, “The real issue isn't this mountain or the mountains of Jerusalem. The real issue is Me.”

Good witnesses keep Jesus Christ “front and center” in every conversation about salvation.

God wants us to understand that the “fields of humanity are white unto harvest” and He wants us to take seriously our call to be “harvesters.”

#1 – Deal with people who are interested (and pray for those who aren't)

#2 – Emphasize repentance (and pray for those who won't)

#3 – Keep people focused on Jesus and their personal relationship to Him