

## John Chapter 4:27-30

### Sermon – Saved by the Well – Part 3

Background – This Samaritan woman is looking for physical relief by going to a well for water. But when she gets there she meets Jesus. Jesus tells her that:

- God has a gift for her.
- He can give her living water if she asks. She is talking from the physical realm and He keeps shifting the conversation to the spiritual realm.
- She's talking about H2O, Gatorade, sweet tea, something to satisfy her thirst. Jesus talking about something better, something sweeter, something everlasting.

Key points:

- While everyone else might be against you, Jesus still looks for you.
- No matter how many times you have failed before, God still has a gift for you through Jesus.
- The same process and 4 steps shows us how to deal with other people and relationships.
  - Humble submission. Acknowledging that she is in need.
    - She didn't receive his invitation at first; she didn't see how Jesus could help, but she changes her mind and asks him for this free gift of living water.
  - Repenting or changing her mind about how she was looking for relief.
  - Resurrected hope. She has new hope that Jesus' way is a better way than what she was about to do or used to do.
  - She asks for this living water so she never has to come to the well in her current condition anymore. She wants a change.
  - Points out the current sin in her life so she can move forward.
- Indicates the plan God has for us and how He wants to use us.
- No matter what you have done, you are not disqualified from being used by God. That is the plan of God.
- After she goes through these steps, Jesus reveals more. After she gets past the church conversation, she finds out Jesus is the Christ.
  - Where she went to church and her religion didn't reveal this. It is clearly not about church but about your relationship with Him.

We pick up part three of the message today in John 4:27-30.

John 4:27

*27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"*

The disciples show up, they don't say anything out loud. They don't verbalize it, but on the inside, they marvel that he is talking to and spending time with this woman. I wonder why they are so surprised.

- Maybe because men didn't talk to women like that in public. That wasn't the tradition back then.

- Maybe because she was just a woman. Women back then didn't have the rights or considerations. They were discriminated against.
- Maybe because she was the wrong race and culture.
- Maybe because she was a sinner.

Notice who it is that is surprised. They are followers of Christ. They are his disciples. They are doing a good work for Jesus....remember, they had gone to get some food. They had given up some things to follow him. Yet, there still may have been some self-righteousness, still some prejudice, still some unkind feelings. They didn't say it out loud but it was in them.

Here is my point and caution. We can be with Christ, can be a follower and disciple of Christ, and be serving Christ, and worship Christ, and be down for Christ....and still look down your nose at a sinner. You might not be saying it out loud, but it might be in you.

- Prejudice, might still be in you.
- Your cultural views might be contrary to the work of the Kingdom.

Jesus is reaching across cultural and racial boundaries while the disciples are scratching their heads.

Now you may say I'm taking this too far. Perhaps they were not prejudice or looking down on the woman. I may be wrong, but there are plenty of examples in the Bible where church folks may love God but not love people. They may not see others the way God sees them.

See Luke 18:9-14 for a New Testament example of a self-righteous mind.

*<sup>9</sup>Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' <sup>13</sup>And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

There was a reason Jesus told this parable. Because there were people back then, church folks, who were religious, knew the Lord, but thought themselves better than others when truth be told, everyone needs to humbly submit to be saved.

When you look down at people, you miss God. Notice the Pharisee in the story.

- Both went to church.
- Both prayed.
- But the Pharisee was just talking to himself, not God. God wasn't hearing how good he was.
- When you are so full of yourself, you miss God. He thought he was close to God.

- The Tax Collector stood afar off physically, but spiritually, he was much closer to God than the Pharisee. How could that be?
- Because he came to church humble, prayed a humble prayer, didn't look down on others because he recognized his true condition and that he needed God.
- Jesus said it was the humble man that was in right standing with God. Instead of exalting himself, he stayed humble and let Jesus exalt his story instead. The Pharisee on the other hand praised himself instead of God.

There are other stories like in Luke 15 where church people criticized Jesus because he interacted with sinners. Let's be careful, Jesus dealt with sinners to lovingly bring them into the Kingdom....he was seeking the lost to save them and not join in with their sins.

Again, it is not about where you go to church, but the condition of your heart when you get there.

So forgive me if I misinterpret what the disciples might be thinking about the woman at the well. Because if it happened back then, if Jesus thought it was important enough to call it out and teach about it back then, then it must still be relevant today.

I bet there are still church people who love God, serve in the church and still think more highly than they are and despise the broken and the humble who Jesus died for. Don't be that type of saint and don't be that type of church.

Back to the woman at the well. The disciples asked themselves two questions. Let us provide the answer.

What do you seek? I can't reduce this to only one answer for I believe...

- Jesus seeks her because he always seeks the lost...and she is lost. His ministry is reconciling lost people to God.
- He is looking for laborers who will go into the world and share the Gospel so others can be saved.
- Jesus is using an opportunity in the natural to teach a spiritual lesson.
- Jesus seeks broken people in need.

Why are you talking to her?

- Jesus is teaching her and walking her through the steps of salvation.
- Because she was qualified and ready to do a great work for the Kingdom.
- Because she is listening and she wants a change in her life.
- Because he is preparing her to lead her people to salvation.
- Because he wants to show her she still has hope in Jesus.
- Because he wants to teach you and I through her testimony, that he desires to talk to us as well.
  - Still saying the same thing that God has a great gift for us and it is found in him.
  - Jesus still has the same relevant message today, he is the Christ and he is here.

Today we can ask the same questions. What does Jesus seek? You!



Why is Jesus talking to you? Because he has a work for you to do beyond just being saved.

John 4:28-30

*<sup>28</sup> The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city and came to Him.*

There is more than just being saved and knowing Jesus. He has a work. She is ready to embark on a new season where she becomes great. But that is another message. Stay tuned for Part 4.

- Your hope is here.
- Your blessing is here.
- All you need to know is here.
- Your answers are here.
- Your salvation is here.
- Your joy, your peace, your new life is here.
- Your victory is here.
- Because Jesus is the Christ and He is here.
- If you can only follow the steps, and be humble, you can still find Him at your well. Just get there. Just get to that place for humility and need. When you get there....He'll be there.

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