

## John Chapter 4:28-30, 39-42

### Sermon – Saved by the Well – Part 4

Background – This Samaritan woman has just had a true encounter with Jesus. We know this because she has gone through 4 key steps. She 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. No matter how many times you have failed before, God still has a gift for you through Jesus.
- 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, and 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. He has a plan for your life.
- 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 four key steps, Jesus reveals more. After she gets past the church conversation, she finds out Jesus is the Christ.

We pick up part three of the message today in John 4:28-30.

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.*

- The woman, left what she was doing. What she was about to do in getting water which was important just minutes ago....it was a priority just minutes ago...now is not as important as what she does next. She shares her faith!
- Notice, she has gone through a 4 step process
  - Humble submission – She asked Jesus for this water. Looking to him rather than herself or another man for the answer.
  - Repent – her attitude has turned around from being skeptical and thinking her way and Jacob's well was better, to turning to Jesus and asking him for a better answer.
  - Restoration and resurrection power – she has a new hope that perhaps Jesus is the better way. Hope that she doesn't have to be in need like this again. Hope that she doesn't have to come to this place again, this embarrassment again, this disappointment and pain again.
  - Spiritual awareness – she learns that her sins have been exposed but she remains eligible for the promise of something better. She learns that how she was worshipping

and going to church before was wrong and that she now needs to seek to please God through the Spirit and truth.

- Her message was simple...come and see! She relays her testimony and how Christ told her about her life.
- Did Jesus really tell her all things? Maybe, maybe not, but he certainly covered the main thing in her life to that point that she was trusting in....that was trying to find the answers through a bunch of men and failed relationships.
- She takes them to the Christ.
- The impact of her witness is they go out to see Christ for themselves. The application point is we need to leave where we are now in order to get closer to Christ.

But I want to take a closer look at these verses and what she is really saying here so we can understand key application points for today

- She left her waterpot. What you are about to do for God has a much higher priority than what you were going to do for yourself. She can come back to the well later, sharing her testimony was greater.
- She had Level 4 power. What do I mean? The fourth feast is Pentecost. She was at that step. Jesus even told his disciples don't leave until you have received the power and then they would be ready to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8). Level 4 power gives her and now us:
  - Power to overcome embarrassment
  - Power to change your mind and direction
  - Power to pursue a new purpose and higher goal
  - Power to share
  - Power to draw others to Christ.
- She invites the crowd to come see a man called Jesus. Why see this man?
  - Because he knows me and still talked to me.
  - Because what I tried to cover up my past, he exposed it, but still talked to me. Still has a gift for me.
  - Come visit the where there are real savings. Walmart may have some good sales, Dollar General may have some good deals, but you can get some real savings at the well...because that's where Jesus is.
- She ends the testimony with a question...Is not this the Christ or could this be the Christ?
  - Because of what I experienced with this man, is not this the answer to our problems?
  - Isn't Christ the only one who can do what just happened to me?
  - Is not this something you want to try?
  - Is not this someone you want to see?
  - Is not this the answer?
  - In the old church by now someone might have already started singing, "Can't nobody do me like Jesus."
- Then they went out of the city to look for Jesus. Wait a minute..."then". This means they didn't start looking for Jesus until after she arrived and gave her testimony. If she didn't have the encounter with Jesus, I she hadn't gone through those four critical steps with Jesus, if she had

not been changed, if she had not left her waterpot....they may not have found Jesus that day. They may not have believed that day, they may have still been lost that day.

- Will today be the day that you tell somebody about your encounter with Jesus? You could help somebody have a great day.

John 4:39-42

*<sup>39</sup>And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."*

- Wait a minute....she had not yet graduated from seminary. She had not yet made it to the right church service yet. She hadn't lived clean for even a good week yet. But when she went through the process....she was working for the Kingdom. Her only qualifications were that she had an encounter with Jesus which changed her life and gave her a promise that something better spiritually was coming her way and that Jesus was and still is the answer.
- What did she say that was so powerful? He told me all that I ever did. She didn't have time for a complete makeover yet. It seems to me it was just a little change, small impact yet it saved a crowd.
- But Jesus had the power to take her small change and change a community.
- Here is our great application for today; if Jesus can take her small change and impact a city; if Jesus can take a two piece fish dinner and a side and feed a multitude, then he has the power to take your loose change, your small change and save a soul.
  - Don't discount what Jesus has done for you. He can still use your small change for the Kingdom.
  - I still love reading one of the most powerful testimonies in the Bible in John 9:25, I know not, one thing I now, that whereas I was blind, now I see.
- The impact of her witness is that many souls in that city believed. Her testimony changed an entire city.
- Powerful, while the disciples who know and been following him are out gathering things in the natural, Jesus has walked this sinner of a woman, through the process and given her a testimony and she uses this same testimony to draw others (a crowd) to Jesus.
- Not just a few, but many "believed on Him". There is a huge difference between believing in Him and believing on Him. To believe in him is to know and understand that he exists. To believe on him is to put your trust and faith in what you know about him. Knowing him and living for Him are two different beliefs. One is intellectual, the other is spiritual.
- Imagine that....a sinner, bringing more people to the Kingdom than the disciples at the time.

*<sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of His own word.*

*<sup>42</sup> Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."*

- Many more believed after he stayed there for two days. They believed because of his word. Wow, didn't say he did any miracles...it was the power of what he said that prompted them to believe on him.
- Oh, that my words and testimony will draw many people to him.
- While he was there, many more believed. Look at what she started.
- They later told her while they believed a first due to her testimony, they believe now because of his words and not just her. Don't just take someone else's word, get your own testimony so you can help Jesus in the family business. You must know him for yourself.
- What is it they now believe? That Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.
- Whatever her reputation was before....it had changed now. The former freak had just introduced them to the best thing ever...Jesus.

Some have read this portion of the story and think the crowd is being hard on the woman. Maybe. But I have a different perspective. I don't think the crowd was being hard on her by saying now we believe not because of what she said. Instead, I think they were confirming and answering the question she had earlier asked them.

- Is not this the Christ? They are simply confirming to her the answer, yes. Lady you were right, the answer to your question is this is indeed the Christ.

I don't know about you but like this woman, I have a record of mistakes, bad moves, broken dreams and promises and some sins. But I read in 1 Peter 4:8 that love covers a multitude of sins, and in James 5:20 it says:

*Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

I don't know about you, but I'm going to follow the example of this woman at the well. I think I will lovingly share with someone about my encounter with Jesus. Perhaps they will hear and go to that place where Jesus sits and waits. When they believe I will have a multitude of sins covered.....because I shared.

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