

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-26, 3CD6A231-5BFA-1E64.wpd, February 23, 2002

(John 4:1-19, 25-26, 39-43), "When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, {2} (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) {3} He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. {4} And he must needs go through Samaria. {5} Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. {6} Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. {7} There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. {8} (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) {9} Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. {10} Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. {11} The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? {12} Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? {13} Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: {14} But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. {15} The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. {16} Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. {17} The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: {18} For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. {19} The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

{25} The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. {26} Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

{39} And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. {40} So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. {41} And many more believed because of his own word; {42} And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world. {43} Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee."



- S **A DIVINE APPOINTMENT** IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD BRINGING a **person** to the **right place** at the **right time** under the **right circumstances** so that he or she has a life-changing experience with God.
- S **JOHN 4** IS AN EXAMPLE OF **A DIVINE APPOINTMENT**. **THE WOMAN** at the well was the **right person** in the **right place** at the **right time** under the **right circumstances**. In a brief moment of time **THAT WOMAN'S LIFE WAS CHANGED FOREVER**.
- S **PERHAPS TODAY** will serve as a **DIVINE APPOINTMENT** in the life of some listener. This might be the very **SPECIAL HOUR OF DECISION** for someone today.

THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT in our text took place AT **12:00 NOON** in the village of **SYCHAR** at **JACOB'S WELL**. The disciples had gone into town to get some food. Jesus stayed behind where He had the opportunity to witness to a woman who had come to draw water from the well. **JESUS' GOAL** for the woman at the well was that she find forgiveness of her sin and receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus wanted that woman to have **A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE**. As a result, Jesus began a discussion with the woman.

#1. JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN
(V. 7), “. . . Give me to drink.”

THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM
(V. 9), “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”

#2. JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN
(V. 10), “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **LIVING WATER**.”

THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM
(V. 11-12), “Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? {12} Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?”

#3. JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN
(V. 13-14), “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: {14} But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into **EVERLASTING LIFE**.”

THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM
(V. 15), “Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”

- S THE WOMAN was thinking on a **PURELY PHYSICAL PLANE**. She was thinking **PHYSICAL WATER**, while Jesus was speaking of **SPIRITUAL WATER**. Jesus was talking to her about **SALVATION**. He simply used a physical example to illustrate a spiritual truth.
- S JESUS USED THE SAME METHOD TO WITNESS TO **NICODEMUS** in the third chapter of John. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again (John 3:3). Nicodemus thought Jesus was talking about **PHYSICAL BIRTH**. He asked how a person could enter back into his mother's womb a second time. He did not understand Jesus was talking about **SPIRITUAL BIRTH**. Jesus was telling Nicodemus that “just like it takes A **PHYSICAL BIRTH** to get into a physical family, it takes A **SPIRITUAL BIRTH** to get into God's spiritual family.
- S JESUS USED THAT SAME KIND OF REASONING WITH THE WOMAN AT THE WELL. Jesus was saying to her,

“Just like it takes **PHYSICAL WATER** to sustain PHYSICAL LIFE, it takes **SPIRITUAL WATER** to sustain SPIRITUAL LIFE.”

JESUS WAS REVEALING TO THAT WOMAN her need for spiritual water, i.e., SALVATION.

When Jesus shared with the woman at the well, HE **WAS SETTING AN EXAMPLE** for all of us to follow. He was demonstrating what it meant to obey THE **“GREAT COMMISSION.”** *The Great Commission* is a familiar term to many Christians. Our **F.A.I.T.H. LITERATURE** speaks of being **A GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIAN.** THE TERM is a reference to Jesus’ command to all Christians to go into all the world and share the gospel with all humanity.

- **(Mark 16:15)**, “. . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
- **(Mat 28:19)**, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . ”
- **(Acts 1:8)**, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and YE SHALL BE **WITNESSES** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (The word for witness is **“MARTUS”** (mar'-toos) from which is derived the English word "MARTYR." Many Christians were martyred because of their bold witness.)

S **JOHN 4 IS AN EXAMPLE** of Jesus carrying out the *Great Commission*.

- It is an example of **THE GREAT SHEPHERD** who left the ninety-nine safe sheep so he could find the one lost sheep (Mat 18:12).
- **JOHN 4 TEACHES THAT GOD MEETS LOST PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE FOUND.** Jesus left the comforts of life and journeyed to Jacob’s well in Samaria because a lost woman was to be found in that place. Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost (Luke 19:10).

S **SOMETIMES WE GET THE PROCESS BACKWARDS.** We think the lost are commanded to come to us. **IF A LOST SHEEP** is trapped in a dangerous mountain pass, or hazardous valley, then it is to the mountains and valleys we must go to find them. The *Great Commission* does not tell us to wait until they *come to us*, it tells us to **GO TO THEM!**

S **SUCH A COMMITMENT IS NOT EASY.** There are **MANY OBSTACLES** and **BARRIERS** to overcome. We must be willing to make whatever sacrifice, and overcome any barrier, so those who need salvation might have the gospel presented to them.

S **IN OUR TEXT JESUS DEMONSTRATES HOW** to overcome the obstacles erected against the *great commission*. **CONSIDER THREE “BARRIERS”** JESUS HAD TO OVERCOME in order to share the *Good News* with the woman at the well.

#1. JESUS OVERCAME THE “NATIONALITY” BARRIER
(V. 3-6), “He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. {4} And

he must needs go through **SAMARIA**. {5} Then cometh he to a city of **SAMARIA**, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. {6} Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour."

- S In a very real sense, **SAMARIA REPRESENTS THE BARRIER OF PREJUDICE**. The only way the disciples would have ever carried the gospel to Samaria would be for them to break their mold of prejudice. They would have to step out of their **COMFORT ZONE**.
- S Samaria was **LOCATED** between Galilee in the north and Judea in the south. If a person traveled from Judaea to Galilee, the shortest route was to travel through **SAMARIA**. (**A MAP** of the Holy Land in Jesus' day is helpful at this point.)
- S **ON THE SURFACE**, a trip through Samaria might not appear to be that big a deal. **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** reveals that passing through Samaria would have been **AN EXTREMELY BIG DEAL**. **A GREAT RIFT** existed between the Jews and the Samaritans that dated back as early as **700 B.C.** When the **ASSYRIANS** captured the ten northern tribes of Israel in **722 B.C.**, they imported many **GENTILES** who intermarried with many of the Jews that remained in the land. Because the Samaritans were a mixture of Jew and Gentile, they were looked down upon. The **RIFT** between Jew and Samaritan was **SO SEVERE THE SAMARITANS** built their **own temple** in Samaria. The Samaritans established their own **priesthood** separate from Jerusalem. **THE JEWS** considered walking through Samaria an act of defilement. That opinion caused some Jews to cross the Jordan river and walk through Perea rather than walk through Samaria.

THE BIBLE GIVES SEVERAL GLIMPSES of that **STRAINED RELATIONSHIP** between **SAMARITANS** and **JEWS**

- 1) **JESUS TOLD THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN** as a rebuke of the sin of prejudice that existed between Jew and Samaritan (Lk 10:30-37).
- 2) **ON ONE OCCASION JESUS PASSED THROUGH A SAMARITAN VILLAGE**. The Samaritans in that village would not receive Him. **JAMES AND JOHN** asked Jesus if He wanted them to **"call down FIRE from heaven"** and destroy that village (Luke 9:54). **JESUS REBUKED THEM BY STATING:**
(Luke 9:55-56), "... Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. {56} For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them . . . "
- 3) **THE STORY IN JOHN 4 TAKES PLACE IN SAMARIA**.
(V. 9), "... For the Jews have **NO DEALINGS** with the **SAMARITANS**."

MODERN TIMES ILLUSTRATE HOW DEEP AND INTENSE the division between nations can become. **If the level of hostility** between Jew and Samaritan was as strong in Jesus' day as the level of hostility between Jew and Palestinian is in our day, then **THE RISK**

Jesus took in going to Samaria to fulfill the *Great Commission* **WAS GREAT**. AT THE VERY LEAST, Jesus had taken His disciples **OUTSIDE THEIR "COMFORT ZONE"** in order to SEEK ONE LOST SHEEP.

S **GOD'S COMMANDS TO US ARE CLEAR.** When it comes to witnessing to other nations, God's Word clearly states:

(Mat 28:19), "GO YE therefore, and TEACH ALL NATIONS . . . "

- THE GREEK WORD FOR **"NATIONS"** is **"ETHNOS."** FROM *ETHNOS* is derived the English word **ETHNIC**. *ETHNOS* speaks of groups of people within a nation. We are called to go to **ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE** located within the nations.
- JESUS SAID, "TEACH **ALL** NATIONS." **"ALL"** really does mean **"ALL!"** God didn't say, "GO TO SELECTIVE NATIONS!" The word "all" is **ALL INCLUSIVE**. We are also to go to all the different kinds of people within all those nations.

S **"ALL NATIONS" INCLUDED "SAMARIA."**

(Acts 1:8), "... YE SHALL BE WITNESSES unto me both IN JERUSALEM, and in ALL JUDAEA, and in SAMARIA, and unto the UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH."

- THE ONLY WAY **THE DISCIPLES** would have ever gone to Samaria was for Jesus to have taken them there. They would never have chosen to go there on their own. In their mind there were too many **barriers** to overcome to ever witness in Samaria.
- IN LIKE MANNER, THE ONLY WAY **WE** WILL EVER GO TO THE **"SAMARIAS"** OF OUR DAY is for us to **overcome every barrier** that has been erected against God's *great commission*. We will never go to "all people" unless we allow the Holy Spirit to pull down **the strongholds** of our **COMFORT ZONES**. We will never step out of our *comfort zones* unless we place God's command above our own opinion.

S **MANY PEOPLE HAVE OBEYED THE COMMAND TO "GO TO ALL NATIONS."** They have taken the challenge to carry out *the great commission* to all peoples regardless of what it might cost them.

- 1) **THE TWO MISSIONARY LADIES** who were arrested in Afghanistan and charged with **"PREACHING CHRISTIANITY"** serve as an example. They were in Afghanistan because Jesus said, "... Go ye therefore, and teach **ALL NATIONS**, . . . "
- 2) **A NEWS DOCUMENTARY** on T.V. during the Afghanistan war highlighted this reality. The news commentator was in **NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN** interviewing **A YOUNG AMERICAN**. Because the American had lived a long time in that village, he spoke their language fluently. He had not fled the country because of the ongoing war. The newsman asked the young man if he was afraid. With an evident sense of peace and calm on his face, he stated that he was not really afraid. He told of villagers who would lay down their

lives for him. I kept wondering as the interview proceeded, what was it that drove that young man to stay in that city in a time of war. I had my suspicions, but no hard facts had yet been presented. Toward the end of the presentation, the young man shared why he risked his life to live among those people. He said it was because of **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**. I wanted to **shout**. **Tears** filled my eyes. Something deep inside said, **"Thank You, Lord!"** That young man had broken down the barriers of *nationality* in order to share the gospel with others.

- 3) **THE BURNAMS** are being held captive right now in the Philippines because they took a risk to share the gospel with all nations.

#1. THE "NATIONALITY" BARRIER

#2. JESUS OVERCAME THE "GENDER" BARRIER

(V. 9), "Then saith the **WOMAN** of Samaria unto him, 'How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am **A WOMAN OF SAMARIA?** for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

(V. 27), "And upon this came his disciples, and marveled that he talked with the **WOMAN**: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?"

- S **RECENT EVENTS** ON THE WORLD SCENE HAVE DEMONSTRATED HOW DEEP THE CHASM BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN CAN BECOME. In some nations of the world, a woman is considered to be of much less value than a man.
- S **THAT ATTITUDE** was somewhat evident in biblical times. The disciples could not believe Jesus was talking to a woman.
- S **NO RELIGION** has done more to change that attitude toward women than has Christianity. **BILL BRIGHT**, founder of *Campus Crusade for Christ*, wrote relevant words pertaining to this subject in an article titled **THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS**. He writes:

"Though Jesus has influenced the whole world, I would call your attention especially to the effect He has had on society's view toward women. Aristotle said, 'Society would be completely disorganized if women were on an equality with their husbands, just as it would be if slaves were on an equality with their masters.' Socrates asked fellow Athenians, 'To whom do you talk less than to your wife?' Plato recommended that women be held in common by men and their children should be cared for by the state."

"But Christ put an end to all this. The New Testament declares that in Christ there is neither male nor female, slave nor free. Wherever Christ has gone, the sacredness of marriage, women's rights and suffrage have been acknowledged; institutions of higher learning have been established; child labor laws have been enacted; slavery has been abolished; and a multitude of other changes have been made for the good of mankind."

- S The *Great Commission* led Jesus to BREAK THE "GENDER

BARRIER and share the gospel with a woman. Jesus did not break the *O.T. law*, but He did break *social barriers* that had been erected against sharing the gospel with every human being.

#1. JESUS OVERCAME THE **"NATIONALITY"** BARRIER

#1. JESUS OVERCAME THE **"GENDER"** BARRIER

#3. JESUS OVERCAME THE "MORALITY" BARRIER

IN JOHN 3 Jesus shared the *Good News* with **NICODEMUS**. When one **COMPARES NICODEMUS TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**, there **IS A STARK CONTRAST!**

<u>NICODEMUS</u>	<u>WOMAN AT THE WELL</u>
a man	a woman
a name	no name
a Jew	a Samaritan
a religious leader	irreligious
wealthy	poor
upper class	lower class
social elite	outcast
good reputation	bad
moral	immoral

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL WAS **A SINNER** with a CAPITAL **"S."** She had been with **five husbands**, and the man she was presently living with was not her husband. There are a lot of **different names** society has assigned to persons of such character that would not be appropriate to use. According to O.T. Law, that woman could have been **stoned** to death for such activity.

S THE **PHARISEES** would never have considered talking to such a woman. To have talked to a woman at all would have been **unthinkable**. To talk to a woman of such character would have been **outside the realm of possibilities**.

S HOW DIFFERENT **JESUS** WAS FROM THE PHARISEES. Jesus was always stepping outside the **comfort zone** and talking to people who were in need of God. Because of Jesus' love for sinners, they responded to His ministry in great numbers.

(Luke 15:1), "Then drew near unto him all the **publicans** and **sinner**s for to hear him."

S As a result of Jesus constantly taking the gospel to those whom many religious authorities considered unfit, Jesus **CONSTANTLY CAME UNDER FIRE**. Because of Jesus' risk in obeying the *Great Commission*, He **CAME UNDER ATTACK** by the religious authorities again and again.

- **(Mat 9:10-11)**, "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. { 11 } And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?"

(THEY DISAGREED WITH JESUS' WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO SUCH NOTORIOUS SINNERS.)

(Mat 9:12-13), "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. {13} But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

- **(Mat 21:31-32)**, ". . . Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. {32} For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

APPLICATION: THE GOSPEL IS FOR ANYONE and EVERYONE.

S Someone might say, "**BUT I HAVE BEEN TOO BAD TO BE SAVED!**" You are not too bad to be forgiven! Jesus died for you so that your sins could be forgiven.

S **JUST LIKE THAT WOMAN** was **NOT TOO BAD TO BE SAVED**, neither are you too bad to be saved.

- **(1 Cor 15:3)**, ". . . Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"
- **(Eph 1:7)**, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"
- "Jesus came **to seek** and to save the Lost" (**Luke 19:10**)
- "**Anyone** who thirsts may come" (**John 7:37**)
- "Jesus **receives sinners**, and eats with them." (**Luke 15:2**)
- "God is **no respecter** of persons" (**Acts 10:34**)
- Jesus will leave the **99 SAFE SHEEP** to go find the one lost sheep. Jesus does what is necessary to get to lost sheep. He crossed over the **SOCIAL BARRIERS** of His day in order to get to the person in need with the message of God's love and forgiveness.

WHAT BARRIERS HAVE WE ALLOWED TO KEEP US FROM CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION?

- S **NATIONALITY?**
- S **GENDER?**
- S **PREJUDICE?** (Jonah)
- S **FEAR?** (Mat 16:25)

JESUS CONTINUED TO DRIVE HOME THE WOMAN'S NEED FOR SALVATION. In the process, Jesus was BOTH **TENDER AND CONFRONTATIONAL**.

OUT OF ETERNAL LOVE FOR HER, JESUS WAS **COMPASSIONATE**. He carried out His conversation with that woman in a manner that reflected GREAT COMPASSION. He demonstrated what the Scripture clearly states regarding Him.

- **(Mat 12:20)**, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory."
- **(John 3:17)**, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

OUT OF ETERNAL LOVE FOR HER, JESUS WAS **CONFRONTATIONAL!** He not only wanted her to know that God loved her, He wanted her to FIND GOD'S SALVATION AND CURE FOR SIN.

#1. JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN

(V. 16), "Go, call thy husband, and come hither."

THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM

(V. 17a), "I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, . . ."

#2. JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN

(V. 17b-18), "Thou hast well said, I have no husband: {18} For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly."

THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM

(V. 19), "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet."

He could have just talked to her about eternal life and not mentioned her past.

JESUS PRESSED THE ISSUE OF HER PAST SIN FOR TWO REASONS:

#1. TO REVEAL HER NEED FOR REPENTANCE

S **REPENTANCE IS NOT OPTIONAL. REPENTANCE IS GOD'S REQUIREMENT!**

- **(Luke 13:3)**, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **REPENT**, ye shall all likewise perish."
- **(Prov 28:13)**, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso **CONFESSETH** and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

S **REPENTANCE REQUIRES THAT A PERSON TO BE HONEST** regarding their sin. They have to be willing to turn from their sin and self and turn to God. Repentance requires confession.

(1 John 1:9), "IF WE **CONFESS** OUR SINS, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

#2. TO REVEAL HIS OWN DIVINITY

(V. 19), "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet."

S **THE WOMAN KNEW JESUS WAS A PROPHET BECAUSE** Jesus told her things about herself that He had no way of knowing except He was a prophet. Jesus' knowledge of her secret life confirmed for her that He was no ordinary person.

JESUS DID A SIMILAR THING WITH **NATHANAEL** that confirmed Jesus' divinity for Nathanael. In the first chapter of John, Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael, He said to Nathanael:

(John 1:48 NIV), ". . ."I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.""

Nathanael responded to Jesus by saying,

(John 1:49 NIV), “. . . "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.""

Nathanael made that comment for much the same reason the woman at the well said, “Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.” The only way Jesus could have known Nathanael was under the fig tree was for Jesus to have had supernatural knowledge. The only way Jesus could have known the woman’s relationship with six different men was for Him to have been a prophet.

S **THE THEOLOGICAL TERM** used to describe Jesus’ knowledge of NATHANAEL and THE WOMAN **IS OMNISCIENCE.**

OMNISCIENCE simply means **“ALL KNOWLEDGE.”**

- (1) **(Prov 5:21 NIV)**, “For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.”
- (2) **(Prov 15:3)**, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
- (3) **(Psa 94:9)**, “He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?”

S **JESUS KNOWS! GOD SEES. GOD HAD FULL VIEW of THE SECRET THINGS OF HER LIFE.**

S **KNOWING EVERYTHING ABOUT HER, JESUS ASKED HER A QUESTION THAT PENETRATED HER HEART AND REQUIRED INTERNAL EXAMINATION.** Jesus did not condemn her. She was already condemned. She already knew her sin and guilt. She didn’t need condemnation. That woman **WAS LOST** and **STOOD IN NEED** of the Savior. Jesus was willing to confront her and help her find the Savior.

S **THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT ALL HUMANITY.** God **KNOWS! God SEES!** We can hide our need from others, but we cannot hide it from God. He knows our **THOUGHTS.** He sees our **CHARACTER.** Knowing everything about us, God loves us and helps us come to the place where we can experience His salvation through Jesus Christ.

(Rom 10:9), “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be **SAVED.**”

THE GOOD NEWS IS the woman responded to Jesus’ love and confrontation in a manner that was pleasing to God. The conviction she had come under **PRODUCED FAITH** in her life. Her response is exemplary for every person that comes to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

SHE DID THREE THINGS:

#1. SHE CONFESSED CHRIST PUBLICLY

(John 4:28-29), “The woman then **LEFT HER WATERPOT**, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 **Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**”

- **(Mat 10:32-33)**, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. {33} But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny

before my Father which is in heaven."

- **(Rom 10:9-10)**, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

#1. SHE CONFESSED CHRIST PUBLICLY

#2. SHE MANIFESTED SPIRITUAL CHANGES

(V. 28), "The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and **SAITH TO THE MEN,**"

S After experiencing God's salvation, Her purpose for going back to the city was different from what it once was. Her desire was to do **THE WILL OF GOD**. She became **an example** of a new person in Christ.

(2 Cor 5:17), "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

S **WE, TOO, CAN HAVE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE** when we give our life to Jesus. After experiencing God's salvation, new things begin to take place in our lives.

RICHARD COSS

told how he came to know Christ. God came to him in the same manner He came to the woman at the well. At age **24**, during his **third** time in **prison** with **32 arrests** and **28 convictions** and **seven and one half years** of his life in jail, a Baptist deacon began reading aloud the Word of God to him. He saw his need for Jesus. Jesus took Richard Coss just like he was and gave him a new life in Christ. Richard Coss became an evangelist preaching the gospel to others so they might find the Savior.

S MARK IT DOWN CLEAR AND PLAIN — **GOD FORGIVES SINS!**

The **GOOD NEWS** is that Jesus died to forgive sinners

- (1) **(1 John 1:7)**, "... The blood of Jesus Christ his Son **CLEANSETH** us from all **SIN**."
- (2) **(1 John 1:9)**, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **FORGIVE** us our **SINS**, and to **CLEANSE** us from all unrighteousness."
- (3) **(Psa 103:12)**, "As far as the **EAST IS FROM THE WEST**, so far hath he removed our **TRANSGRESSIONS** from us."
- (4) **(Micah 7:19)**, "... Thou wilt cast all their **SINS** into the **DEPTHS OF THE SEA**."

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE tells us that the deepest part of the sea is by the Philippine Islands and it is **36,000 FEET DEEP**. When you get that far down in the water, it is dark and you cannot see a thing. God says, "I have cast your sins into the depths of the sea."

(5) **(Heb 8:12)**, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and THEIR **SINS AND THEIR INIQUITIES WILL I REMEMBER NO MORE.**"

RICHARD COSS

"There are some things that God cannot do. God cannot see our sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. God said I am going to put your sin under my Sons blood and I will remember it no more. It is has been dealt with." (from revival services in 1980's)

- #1. SHE **CONFESSED** CHRIST PUBLICLY
- #2. SHE MANIFESTED SPIRITUAL **CHANGES** IN HER LIFE

#3. SHE BECAME A CHAMPION FOR OTHER THIRSTY PEOPLE

AFTER "**DRINKING**" THE WATER HERSELF, SHE WENT AND TOLD OTHERS ABOUT THE LIVING WATER OF LIFE.

(V. 39), "And many of the Samaritans of that city **BELIEVED** on him **FOR THE SAYING OF THE WOMAN**, which **TESTIFIED**, He told me all that ever I did."

S THAT WOMAN, WHO WAS VOID OF **MEANING** IN HER LIFE, began to tell other thirsty folks how they could find spiritual water. She had discovered God's spiritual water quenches one's eternal thirst.

S **JAMES BOICE** TELLS A WONDERFUL STORY OF FORGIVENESS. "**OVER IN ENGLAND** in the early part of the nineteenth century, there was a woman who had heard the gospel but had never been able to respond to it personally. She had come from a Christian home. She understood the faith. But still she could not come. She considered herself unworthy. One day she wandered into a very small church and sat down in the back. She was almost in despair and hardly heard the words of the elderly man who was speaking. Suddenly, right in the middle of his address, the preacher stopped, and pointing his finger at her said, "**You, Miss, sitting there at the back, you can be saved now. You don't need to do anything!**" His words struck like thunder in her heart. She believed at once, and with her belief there came an unimaginable sense of peace and joy.

THAT NIGHT **CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT** went home and wrote the well-known hymn:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

(James Boice, *The Gospel of John*, Vol 1, pg. 392-393)

TWO CLOSING TRUTHS:

(1) YOU ARE **NOT TOO BAD** TO BE SAVED! God has forgiven many bad people. HE FORGAVE:

- 1) **MOSES**. He killed an Egyptian.
- 2) **DAVID**. He sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba.
- 3) **PAUL**. He consented to the death of other believers.
- 4) You are not too bad to be forgiven. God can forgive **YOU!**

(2) **YOU CAN BE TOO LATE** TO BE SAVED! Some people wait too late.

- **(Prov 29:1)**, “He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
- **(James 4:14)**, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
- **ANDRE CROUCH** ASKED AN IMPORTANT QUESTION IN ONE OF HIS SONGS:
“What ya gonna do if you wait to late to get your heart right with God?”
THEN HE CONCLUDES HIS SONG BY SAYING:
“Stop and think it over!”