

GOSPEL OF JOHN
THE WOMAN AT THE WELL
JOHN 4:1-42

Introduction

As we look at or listen to the news each day, we see and hear about scores of people who have lost their lives in various ways around the world.

Sometimes we hear of the death of hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, and even hundreds of thousands at a time in wars, disasters that take place, or other happenings around the world. Sometimes we just hear of the death of individuals or a number of individuals at a time. Nevertheless, **death is a something that is constantly happening on this globe.**

Online I've seen missionary or ministry web sites that have a counter on their web sites or blogs to make those who log on to those sites aware of souls perishing. It gives the approximate number of souls that have gone out into eternity since the time you logged on to their website.

On average, around 150,000 people each day die and go out into eternity. That's a lot of people. No doubt the majority of those that go out each day go out into a Christless eternity!

Now we know that Jesus came and payed the sin debt of all mankind...He came to save lost souls! *Luke 19:10—"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

But the Bible also reveals that Christ also came to be an example to those who have believed on Him!

1 Peter 2:21—"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"

1 John 4:17—"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

Ephesians 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

I believe that example also includes the way that we interact with those who are lost!

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This morning I want us to see such an example in our text. Read **John 4:1-42.**

I. JESUS WAS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE!

Notice several things here:

A. We Know Jesus Was Sensitive To Multitudes.
(John 4:35, 40-41; Matthew 9:35-38)

Matthew 14:14—"And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."

C. We See Jesus Was Also Sensitive To Individuals.
(John 4:4) Some Other Examples:

- 1. Nicodemus (ch. 3)**
- 2. Zacchaeus.**
- 3. Many others.**

II. JESUS DIDN'T LET SOCIAL BARRIERS GET IN HIS WAY OF HELPING PEOPLE! (John 4:4, 9, 27)

(i.e. Jesus Was Not Prejudiced!)

This Woman Was A Samaritan Woman! Understand that the Samaritans were a half-breed of Jews resulting from intermarriage with the Assyrians. They were despised by those who were full-blooded Jews, especially in the Southern Kingdom.

We see here that Jesus took the road less traveled—through Samaria. Though it was the more direct path, it was not the popular path.

The rift between the Jews and the Samaritans was so bad that the Jews would not pass through Samaria on the path between Judea and Galilee.

Visualize this, they would go east, cross the Jordan River, go north or south, bypass Samaria, and then cross the Jordan again when they neared their destination. That is how bad it was.

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But it says here that Jesus “*must needs*” go through Samaria.
Jesus had to go through Samaria! Why? I believe it was because Jesus knew that **this woman of Samaria had some needs that only He could fill, and He intersected her path on purpose!**

This woman was surprised that Jesus had anything to do with her!
Jewish rabbis would rather go thirsty than ask for a drink from a woman of Samaria.

Aren't you glad Jesus isn't prejudiced? Because prejudices can take MANY forms in this world can't they!
2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is. . .not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

1 Timothy 2:4—“. . .who would have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

Sadly, some Believers refuse to witness to particular people because of the prejudices or other social barriers they harbor in their hearts!

The Gospel is for EVERY person, no matter what that person's race or social position or even their sins might be!

We should be willing to share the Gospel anybody and everybody that needs it! Jesus crossed all barriers to share the Gospel, and we who follow Him must do no less! Let's remember the example of Christ!

JESUS WAS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE!
JESUS DIDN'T LET SOCIAL BARRIERS GET IN HIS WAY!

III. JESUS USED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE AS OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP PEOPLE! (John 4:6-7)

This is a constant that you will notice in Jesus' ministry:
John 4:46-54 – Jesus heals the nobleman's son.

John 5:1-15—Jesus heals the lame man by the pool.

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These are just a few of many examples we could give this morning of how Jesus used the circumstances of life to help folks!

We see the apostles followed in the footsteps of Christ in this regard:
Acts 16:22-34 – The Philippian jailer and his family are converted.

Acts 24 – Paul appears before Felix and witnesses of Christ!

Acts 26 – Paul appears before King Agrippa and Festus and witnesses of Christ!

Let's think back to the opportunities of life that came our way this past week? Did we use those opportunities that came our way to give a positive witness for Christ or did we waste them?

IV. JESUS LOOKED TO MEET PEOPLE'S GREATEST NEED!
(John 4:10-14)

Note how Jesus laid aside his own physical needs in order to meet her spiritual need! (He was both tired and thirsty! But this woman had some great needs!)

The greatest need that folks have is their spiritual emptiness!
They need to be born again, born from above, born into the family of God by God's Spirit through what Christ did at Calvary!

That's why Jesus came! That is why Jesus left us with the task of the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20!**

That's why Jesus told His disciples:
Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has 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 Gospel of Christ is the remedy for what is wrong with the world!

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V. JESUS HAD TO CLARIFY WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT! (John 4:10-19)

This woman was thinking in terms of physical water! (*Vs 11-12*)
Jesus was speaking about spiritual water!

This woman was interested in making her life easier! (*Vs 15*)
Jesus was speaking about making her life better!

We have to be careful when dealing with folks so they don't get confused! Sometimes folks get confused because they have their own ideas about some of the terminology we use! Especially those who are wrapped up in cults.

VI. JESUS GUIDED THE CONVERSATION SO HE COULD REVEAL SPIRITUAL TRUTH! (John 4:16-26)

What spiritual Truth? That He is the Messiah!

But see, she tried to change the subject when the conversation got too close to home! (literally) (*vs. 16-20*)

The woman brought up a very popular theological issue—the correct place to worship!

But notice how Jesus brought the conversation back to the Truth! (*vs. 21-26*)

Jesus directed the conversation to a much more important point. The location of worship is not nearly as important as the attitude of worship!

VII. JESUS EXTENDED HIS OUTREACH TO OTHERS NEARBY AS THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE! (John 4:29-30, 39-42)

She talked to people in her circle of influence and they came to see Jesus for themselves!

Jesus spent two days in Samaria teaching and preaching to these folks that heard about what Jesus did for this Samaritan woman!

Conclusion

Let me ask, do you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour today? Don't allow yourself to get sidetracked by other things! Come to Jesus today!

And for those of us that know Christ, understand that Jesus is our example when it comes to evangelization! Let's summarize real quickly!

1. Are we sensitive to the spiritual needs of those about us or are we all wrapped up in OUR needs and wants?
2. What about social barriers? Do we let them get in our way of fulfilling the Great Commission?
3. What are we doing with the circumstances (i.e. the opportunities) that the Lord allows to come our way each and every day? Are we taking advantage of them to help folks or are we squandering them?
4. Are we interested and actively involved in meeting folks greatest need? Their need of salvation?
5. Do we take time to talk to folks with clarity or do we talk in religious jargon that they may or may not understand?
6. Do we allow folks to get us off track? Or do we guide the conversation so we can reveal the Spiritual Truth that is needed?
7. Do we look to extend our outreach to others nearby as the opportunities arise?