

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

4 – 2 Are You Ready to Listen to Jesus?

John 4:13-29

John 4:13-15 – As soon as this conversation started, back in John 4:7-12, the Samaritan woman was distracted. Her shock that a Jewish man would talk to a Samaritan woman caused her to not address the simple request for water. Her focus on the history and heritage of Jacob's well side-tracked her from discussing the gift of God and the living water that was offered to her. Finally, she asked for the living water that only Jesus can give her.

John 4:16-18 – Jesus then proceeded to discuss an important area in her life. He asked about her husband. The woman honestly stated that she had no husband. Jesus then told her of her marital history (involving five husbands) and then commented that she was living with a man that is not her husband.

It appears that getting living water from Jesus will require some confrontation with God's truth and our ways of thinking and living. In John 3:1-21, Jesus confronted a master teacher (Nicodemus) with the truth of our need to be born again. In Matthew 19:16-22, Jesus will later confront a wealthy man concerning his attachment to his wealth and possessions. The truths about the new birth, the living water, and eternal life are not mere academic subjects. They are designed to transform us and give us a dynamic personal relationship with God. But people have a way of diverting these truths with other topics, often religious topics.

John 4:19-24 – The Samaritan woman next confessed her thought that Jesus was a prophet and then began to ask questions about differing places of worship between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus redirected the question to her need – everyone's need to worship God personally in their heart and mind – the need to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:22-24). Note John 4:22 "*Salvation is of the Jews*" – The things that bring us salvation (The Scriptures and our Savior) were given to us through the Jews / Israel.

John 4:25-29 – The Samaritan woman began to postpone the subject until some unknown future date: the coming of the Messiah. It is our nature to postpone important decisions to some other place, some other time. But Jesus pushed the issue to a conclusion. He simply said that He was the Messiah. Instantly, this woman believed, forsook her waterpot and ran back to town to tell others. What happened next is going to be discussed next time.

But for now, let us learn how meandering discussions on social and religious issues can turn into a conversion experience. It is not how clever or forceful people speak. It is not about winning arguments or proving our points. It is about people realizing that they know God, not man, is dealing with them. Jesus spoke in such a way that all of her other questions and arguments didn't matter. Jesus the Messiah was talking to her. Have you ever had the experience of knowing in your heart that God is talking to you? This usually happens during or after a time that the truth of Scripture has been presented to you. This is when you will do business with God.

- John 6:63 cp. 5:24-25
- I Thessalonians 1:5-6; 2:13
- Ephesians 2:1, 4-6
- I Corinthians 2:1-5

Christianity is not a philosophy. It is a revelation. We are to share the gospel and our testimony. We must try to answer people's reasonable questions. But ultimately, God Himself must reveal the truth to a human heart. Salvation will not come to a person through the persistent arguments of people. If you want to do business for the Lord, depend on His Spirit to lead you and to empower His word.

If Jesus is coming for you, resisting, or deflecting the conviction of His word will not stop Him. Some people act like they are in the chase scenes in some movies, where a person keeps throwing things behind him, so that the pursuer trips and falls. But if Jesus is after you, He will catch you!

- Are you trying to run from Jesus or trying to avoid Him?
- Are you trying to persuade people to follow Jesus, using mere logic, wisdom, and willpower?
- May we let go and let Jesus have His way **in** our lives and **through** our lives!