

John 4.39-42
Will Someone Please Testify!

Aim: to see our great testimony in Jesus and then testify of the great things He has done for us!

Scripture Reading: Psalm 96

INTRODUCTION:

God saved me in the fall of 1990. Looking back what I quickly learned was in the 90's it was all the rave for people to share their testimony. What I mean by sharing their testimony is...it was the rave for people to talk about how bad and wicked and evil they were and to do that in very graphic detail for about 30 minutes and then spend about 3-5 minutes talking about how good God is and how much they needed salvation so they wouldn't go to hell.

There was indeed something sweet about those testimonies describing a person's depravity and their lives filled with darkness and sin, but in my humble opinion there is something awkward about a person's testimony when it's filled with 95% of how bad they were and only 5% of how good God is and their new life in Christ. Nevertheless, this was the practice of a lot of ministries in the 90's and it was for my ministry as well. Churches and ministries would bring in men and women with absolutely amazing stories of drug abuse, alcohol, addiction, rape, abortions, divorce, and poverty. Churches and ministries would placard and herald these people with amazing stories before the church and we would all be fascinated with them and their story. That was my experience in the 90's.

Now, I have to be careful because there is a fine line between a person's excellent ability to tell their story and the truth that God has saved them. I don't want to take away from the story of redemption in people's lives, but I do believe that our testimonies should always be flooded and overwhelmed with God's working in our lives. Our testimonies, your testimony, should not only consist of a heavy dose of how sinful you were, but a heavier dose of how good, gracious, and merciful God is to you the sinner. Your testimony should be filled with pointers to Christ. People should be left with the awe of who God is and not simply how bad you were as a sinner. We should always point people to Jesus through our testimony.

So with that said, time and time again we see in Scripture people testifying about Jesus. They constantly are going to other people testifying to them about what Jesus said to them, what Jesus did to them, and who Jesus said He was. They testify of Jesus. They give witness of Jesus. And time and time again we see in Scripture that many people then go to Jesus because of the testimony about Jesus.

When was the last time you testified about Jesus outside our gathering? What was it that you said to the person? What was your testimony to them regarding Jesus? What witness did you give to them regarding Jesus?

Did you know that testifying and witnessing about Jesus are to be a part of our lives as followers of Christ?

Acts 1.8 “but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Luke 8.39 “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you. So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.”

Luke 24.46 “and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you...’”

We are to testify and witness of the great things that God has done for us. We are to testify and to witness that the Christ would suffer and rise again and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed to all the nations. You and I are witnesses of these things as a promise from the Father to the nations.

So what do you witness of? What do you testify about? What are your words and conversations filled with? Do people walk away amazed with you and your story and your abilities or are they amazed with God? Do they desire to go to Jesus because of your testimony and witness of Jesus? You and I are to testify and witness and describe what great things God has done for us!

Last time we were in John Jesus taught the disciples about farming for souls. He said that there is one who sows and one who reaps and both rejoice together! Jesus sowed Himself into the Samaritan woman and we are told that she left her water pot and went into the city and now the Samaritan woman is sowing into the men of the city about the Christ, the Messiah.

So what happens...in one small insignificant town in the middle of Samaria when an insignificant woman of Samaria testifies about the significant Christ?

Let's read it together....John 4.39-42

Title: Will Someone Please Testify!

Aim: to see our great testimony in Jesus and then testify of the great things He has done for us!

From That City Many Believed In Him (v.39)

'From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him'

Once again we are drawn back into the story **of the Samaritans**. John takes our thoughts from thinking about spiritual farming and sowing and reaping the gospel in the souls of men, to now picturing the disciples being told by Jesus to lift up their eyes and look on the fields that they are white for harvest, because **from that city** of Sychar in Samaria **many have believed in Him**.

There is no mistaking the Holy Spirit's point of inspiration through the Apostle John in writing this little phrase...**from that city**. Jesus is gathering in and is going to continue to gather in all kinds of people, even the kinds of people **from that city** in Samaria, to Himself. So John tells us "**from that city** of Sychar **many of the Samaritans believed in Him**."

They **believed in Him**. And so here we are talking about **belief** again. They **believed** in Him. This word **believe** means to be persuaded of and to put confidence in something. They **believed** that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah. They **believed** in Him. The many who **believed** were now persuaded and convinced in Him.

So what did they do? Look back at **verse 30** in **chapter 4**.

"They went out of the city, and were coming to Him."

This is what many of us have come to realize over the years from studying the Scriptures. True **belief**, in the biblical sense, is not only simply acknowledging something in the mind, but true **belief** then does something. True **belief** acts upon what is true. True **belief** produces something in your life. It produces obedience, movement, and action. True biblical **belief** is not static. True **belief** in Jesus does something.

This is why we cringe when we know people who say they **believe** in Christ and yet there is no life at all that follows that **belief**. It makes us cringe, not because we think we're better than them, but because we have come to learn and understand that **belief** is not simply something that is a mental achievement. True **belief** in Christ goes...to Christ, it follows after Christ, and it lives for Christ.

But how in the world did these people who never met Jesus come to **believe in Him** as the Christ, the Messiah?

Reaping The Crop Of Sowing Into Others (v.39)

'because of the word of the woman who testified...'

They **believed in Him**, because of the **word**, because of the *logos of the woman who testified* to them. Listen, the Word, the Eternal Word of God, spoke and declared to her that He was the Christ, the Messiah. He sowed into her with **words** of truth of His deity and Messiahship. She then reproduced that same **word** of truth and sowed the truth of Jesus into the men of the city.

Now I'm with John MacArthur and I think there was much more that was **testified** about Jesus to them, but we are only told that she **testified** of Jesus' omniscience. The **word** she spoke was "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done." Jesus spoke to her and told her **all the things she had done**. John does not tell us **all the things she had done**. But Jesus told her **all the things she had done**.

And Jesus' intimate knowledge of her so gripped her life that she was compelled to speak and use **words** and she **testified** openly and publicly about Jesus to the city. She had no regard for **all the things that she had done**, because she was so captivated by the Christ, the Messiah, the One who told her **all the things she had done**. She was captivated by His omniscience.

There are infinite attributes of God. We are only told of the ones in Scripture. But of those in Scripture, which ones grip you? Which ones captivate you? Which ones absolutely just take your breath away? And once you've caught your breathe you speak, you use **words**, and you **testify** about God to others.

I've mentioned this before, but I love how Tom and Jason will constantly pull out their journals and ask us if they can share something that they read and studied. They **testify** of God to us. They use **words** that speak, *logos*, of God's truth. They give **witness** to who He is and how He is revealing Himself to them.

The **many in that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified** to them. They **believed** because Jesus sowed into her and she sowed into them. We see the immediate results of what Jesus was teaching His disciples. People are laboring in the fields...the fields of souls. They are sowing, they are watering, and they are reaping and receiving wages and are gathering fruit for life eternal and the sower and the reaper are rejoicing together.

So now we have **many from that city believing in Him** and are now **coming to Him**. Again, true **belief** pushes you to Jesus. It leads you to Jesus. It makes you want to go and be with Jesus.

Will we **testify** of Jesus, so that **many will believe and come to Jesus**? Will someone please **testify** about Jesus?

We **testify** about all kinds of things...our children, our work, our sickness, our pains, our struggles, our toys, our vacations, our houses, our teams, our food, our diets, our clothes...but will we **testify** about Jesus? That He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Lord, the King, the Ruler, the Great Shepherd, the Healer, the Deliverer, the only Way, the only Truth, the only Life!

Will you tomorrow show up at work or wake up in your home with your family and **testify** of Jesus to them? Will you boast in Him and all the great things He has done for you? Will you give **witness** of Jesus to the men of the city? Will you give **witness** of Jesus to the women of the city?

We have many here in this pagan city of Sychar coming out of the city to meet with Jesus all because of one **woman's words** and **testimony** about Jesus Christ!

So what did they want from Jesus?

They Came To Jesus And He Stayed With Them (v.40-41)

“So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His word;”

So what did they want from Jesus? They wanted Him **to stay with them**. Man, I love this word **stay**. It means to remain and abide, but it also means something a bit deeper than just remaining and abiding. It means to be held, kept, continually. They wanted Jesus to **stay** with them. They wanted to hold, keep Jesus with them continually.

Do you understand what's going on here? **Samaritans** and Jews don't do that. They don't **stay** with each other. They don't hold each other. They don't keep each other. They don't extend an invitation to each other.

Pastor Mike talked last week about Jesus breaking down the barrier of the dividing wall by abolishing in His flesh the enmity that existed between the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus right here in **John 4** is preparing that way by demonstrating through His own interactions and engagements that He didn't play by the same rules as the Pharisees and the religious rulers of the day.

They asked Him to stay with them and Jesus stayed there two days. Two days!!!

Can you imagine all the rules and the traditions of men that Jesus was breaking? John Phillips in his commentary says, “They asked this strange Jew, who had already showed Himself to be so singularly free from racial bias, to come and visit in their town. He gladly obliged and remained there two days, breaking who knows how many Jewish *shib-bo-leths*, visiting in their homes, eating their food, sleeping in their beds, teaching them the word of God. Revival broke out. **‘And many more believed because of His own word.’”**

They wanted Him to **stay**, to remain, to be held, kept continually, because their truth faith and true **belief** was seeking greater understanding. This is yet another fruit of true **belief**. They wanted Him **to stay with them**, so they could be with Him and learn more of Him.

How many of you know that true and strong **belief** longs for the presence of Christ? How many of you know that true and strong **belief** longs for more knowledge of Christ? More presence with Christ and more knowledge of Christ! They wanted **Him to stay with them!** Because of true **belief** they were able to lay aside all prejudices. Because of true **belief** they longed to **stay** and be with and behold the Savior.

Is your faith and **belief** leading you to a stronger and deeper presence with Christ? Is your faith and **belief** leading you to a stronger and deeper knowledge of Christ? We too must practice the presence of Christ. We must draw near to Him and **stay** with Him and He promises to stay with us.

So what happens when Jesus **stays** with these new believers?

An Awakening Happens...Even More Believe (v.41)

“Many more believed because of His word;”

I’m not an expert on revivals, but I’ve read a little about several revivals over the centuries and of course the great awakening. I know what John is writing here in **verses 40-41** isn’t automatically a prescription verse for the church, but what I see is...when true **belief** leads true believers to be with and to **stay** with the true Savior, others in our lives are more likely to become true believers as well. This is God’s sovereign plan in the life of His people.

God uses men as the pure method of evangelism and making disciples of the nations with the gospel. The woman invited them to come and see a man who told me all the things that I have done. So when they were with Jesus **many more believed because of His word**. Jesus, the Eternal Word, spoke more **words** with those who invited Him **to stay with them**. Jesus further **testified** of Himself to these **Samaritans** from Sychar.

Because of Jesus' **words** and testimony to them **many more believed**. She invited them to Jesus. Jesus **stayed** with them and spoke to them. They **believed** in Him. (REPEAT)

Why do modern churches in America ever think that the **words** of the world will convert the world to Christ? It is the **words** of Christ that converts the world to Christ. Therefore, I believe that we have to do these two things right here in **verses 40 and 41**.

First, we have to invite people and get people to **stay** with Jesus. We have to get people to the Jesus of Scripture. We have to let them spend time with the Jesus of Scripture. We have to introduce them to Him. We have to stop allowing and thinking that the world's made-up Jesus is going to lead the world to the true Jesus. Therefore, we must be intentional about destroying this false god that people are making of Jesus Christ in their minds. We have to destroy the false speculations and the lies that people make-up concerning Jesus Christ. This is absolutely your duty as a follower of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10.3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

We have to get people to **stay** with the true Jesus of Scripture. We have to spend long and hard time with them introducing them to the Jesus of Scripture. The devil has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God. This is in your job description as a follower of Jesus Christ; you are to destroy the lies about Jesus in people's minds and to help them take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

So the first thing we do is to destroy the lies about Jesus in people's minds (HOW?) by introducing them to the real Jesus of Scripture and to allow them to spend time with the real Jesus. Then a very close second, we then speak the **words** of Christ to them just like Jesus spoke **words** to the **Samaritans** when He **stayed with them**.

Romans 10.17 “So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.”

It is the **words** of Christ that are going to lead people to faith in Christ. So they must hear, they must read, and we must speak the **words** of Christ to them.

This is what we see in **John 4.40-41**. They heard the **words** of Christ and **many more believed in Him**. The Logos used logos and many more believed in the Logos. The Eternal Word used **words** and many more believed in the Eternal Word. We too must use the **words** of the Word in order for people we love to believe in the Word.

Our Testimony Should Lead Others To Know The Savior (v.42)

Therefore our salvation testimony must be drenched with the work of the Word in us. It must be soaked with the truth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. It must be saturated with the **words** of Christ. Everything about your salvation testimony should point others to Jesus.

This woman used **words** to **testify** about this man who told her everything that she had done. We too must use **words** to **testify** about this Man who told us everything about ourselves and our desperate need for Him. We too must use **words** to **testify** about this Man who came, so that sinners would be reconciled to God. We too must use **words** to **testify** about this Man who became sin for sinners, so that the awful wrath of God would be appeased against those sinners.

You cannot beg and plead with people without **words**. And we are the ambassadors for Christ here on this earth begging people on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled to God. You must use **words**. You must **testify** of Jesus Christ. You must. You simply must. Will someone please **testify**?

In an astonishing outcome of farming for souls...the woman who **testified** to the men of the city are now **testifying** to the woman.

So what do they **testify** about?

Jesus Is The Savior Of The World (v.42)

“and they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.’”

They **testified** back to the **woman** that they **no longer believed** only because of her **testimony**, but they **believe** because they **have heard for themselves** and they **know** that Jesus **is indeed the Savior of the world**.

This is yet again what the **words** of Christ will reproduce in good soil. You have believers **testifying** and **witnessing** to other believers. It is a sweet, sweet cycle of reassuring one another in Christ of our **belief** in Christ. We not only **testify** and **witness** of Christ to the **world**, but we **testify** and **witness** of Christ to one another in Christ. Oh, what joy there is when believers in Christ **testify** to other believers in Christ of all the good things that God has done for us!

We rejoice with those who rejoice. We celebrate and together we give thanks to the God who works wonders in the sons of men (Psalm 107.8). In the sanctuary together we praise Him for His mighty deeds. When was the last time you read **Psalm 150**?

Psalm 150.1-2 “Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds. Praise Him according to his excellent greatness.”

These **Samaritans** who **believed** in the Christ, the Messiah, because **of the word of the woman who testified** to them, then **testified** back to the **woman** of their joy in hearing the **words** of Jesus themselves and believing in Him.

And what do these **Samaritans** from Sychar **believe** and **know** to be true and **testify**? That Jesus **is indeed the Savior of the world**. These non-Jewish people rejoice greatly that salvation through the Christ, the Messiah will indeed come from the Jews, but salvation will not only be for the Jews, but for the **world** as well.

Do you remember the response of the Gentiles in Acts when they heard that the gospel of Jesus Christ was for them as well?

Acts 13.48 “When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”

When the **world** hears the **words** of Christ, those **words** that **testify** about the Christ, then and only then can the **world** believe in Christ. And with great joy believe in Christ!

Through Jesus’ demonstration of being in **Samaria**, speaking with a **woman** from **Samaria**, and receiving and **staying** with people in **Samaria** He is first handedly demonstrating to His disciples and to these Samaritans that He will indeed be the Savior of the world.

I want you to see something with me. Jesus’ last words in Acts before His ascension He tells His disciples that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth.

Watch this...in **John 3**...Jesus is in Jerusalem and He speaks with Nicodemus. Later in **John 3** Jesus and His disciples go into the land of Judea and there they spend time with the people and baptizing them. In **John 4** Jesus had to pass through **Samaria** and there He meets a **Samaritan woman** and gives her living water, eternal life. Later in **John 4** we will see that Jesus will encounter a Gentile, a royal official and He will heal His son. If you take the Gentile to represent the remotest parts of the earth, in which Gentiles live, then Jesus in **John 3 & 4** demonstrated for His disciples what they must do for the sake of His Kingdom. They must go into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest parts of the earth. He shows them what to do.

We see Jesus’ encounter in chapters 3 & 4 is to the Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles....Jesus’ ministry is going to go global...to all the nations, to all the peoples. Jesus is demonstrating for His disciples what this ministry is going to look like and be about. Jesus demonstrates to them so that they will in turn reproduce what they see in Him. Jesus receives and engages all kinds of people. So in His last words we read in Acts 1.8 is to those very disciples He demonstrated this too. He tells them in **Acts 1.8** “...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Jesus has a global kingdom that He is working to establish and it is going to consist of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. This is the Master plan, because **He is indeed the Savior of the world.**

Therefore, we His disciples today must **testify** and use **words** that describe all the things that God has done for us in His Son Jesus Christ.

You must **testify** of how He has delivered you from sin, Satan, and the world.

You must **testify** of who He is; He is the Christ, the Messiah.

You must **testify** of what He has accomplished for you in the cross, His being put to death, so that your sins can be nailed to that cross in His flesh.

You must **testify** that the One who was buried and was dead rose again three days later in victory and conquered death and the grave.

You must **testify** of how Christ through the Holy Spirit shepherds you and guides you and teaches you in this life.

You must **testify** of the great joy that you experience everyday waking up being a child of the Living God.

You must **testify** of His blessings, provisions, peace, joy, salvation, grace, mercy, comfort.

You must **testify** of the true Jesus Christ in Scripture and destroy the lies that people believe about God.

You must **testify** that Jesus **is indeed the Savior of the world** and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved

You must **testify** of these things. You must **witness** of these things. Because the promise of the Father has been placed upon you, to proclaim in His name to all the nations, that the Christ must suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed to all the nations.

You must **testify** and **witness**.

Who will **testify**? Who will be the one that **testifies** today? Tomorrow? You and I are **testifying** and giving **witness** of a thousand things every day, but what are we **testifying** regarding Jesus?

If you have been born again by God, then you have been given an incredible **testimony** in Christ. If this is true, then you must **testify** about Jesus and the amazing things that He has done for you.

CONCLUSION:

Through the words of Jesus He **testified** to this woman about Himself. “She left her water pot and went into the city and said to the men, Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?” They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. They asked Jesus if He would **stay** with them; and He **stayed** with them for two days. Many more **believed** because of His **word**. They then **testified** back to the woman of their **belief** in Him and that He was **indeed the Savior of the world**.

What will be the **testimony** of your life? Will the **testimony** of your life be that you were so captivated by the greatness of Christ that you left your agenda behind, so that you would pursue **testifying** and **witnessing** regarding Jesus Christ to everyone?

You have a great testimony in Jesus, therefore you must testify of the greatness of Jesus Christ.

But you may be here this morning and you know deep down inside of you that you do not have a testimony in Christ. You remain lost, abandoned, and separated from Christ. You have no testimony. But what if God right now is showing you that Jesus died for you a sinner, so that you will have a great testimony in Him?

What if right now God, the Holy Spirit, is awakening you to new life in Jesus Christ? We beg you right now to be reconciled to Jesus. We beg you to plead with God to have mercy on your soul. We beg you to look to the cross of Jesus and sin your sin nailed to Him. We beg you to look to the cross and see God’s wrath poured out on His Son so that you can escape the wrath of God to come. Look to the cross this morning, plead with God to have mercy on you, and believe in the work of Jesus Christ and be saved. Then boast and brag of the great things that God has done for you in His Son Jesus Christ. He has done great things!