

Sunday Morning Message

May 1, 2022

The Woman at the Well

The Gospel According to John

Text – John 4:1 - 42

Congregational Reading – John 4:19 - 26

Introduction

(Review on the Map, the geography of Jesus' travels in John 3 from Jerusalem to Judea (presumably near the Jordan River; John's ministry in Aemon)



This story bears quite a contrast to the one we studied a few weeks back from chapter three about Nicodemus. This reinforces the point that every person that we deal with is an individual and must be dealt with individually.

Notice the contrasts: (from A. W. Pink – The Gospel of John)

As we study John 3 and 4 together, we discover a series of striking contrasts. Let us look at them:

First, in John 3 we have "a man of the Pharisees *named* Nicodemus:" in John 4 it is an unnamed woman that is before us.

Second, the former was a man of rank, a "Master of Israel:" the latter was a woman of the lower ranks, for she came "to draw water."

Third, the one was a favored Jew: the other was a despised Samaritan.

Fourth, Nicodemus was a man of high reputation, a member of the Sanhedrin: the one with whom Christ dealt in John 4 was a woman with a questionable reputation.

Fifth, Nicodemus sought out Christ: here Christ seeks out the woman.

Sixth, Nicodemus came to Christ "by night:" Christ speaks to the woman at mid-day.

Seventh, to the self-righteous Pharisee Christ said, "Ye must be born again:" to this sinner of the Gentiles He tells of "the gift of God."

How much we miss by failing to compare and contrast what the Holy Spirit has placed side by side in this wondrous revelation from God! May the Lord stir up all of us to more diligent *study* of His Word.

I. The Context (vs. 1 – 6)

See Map

Jesus was beginning to attract a lot of attention from the religious leaders in Judea so He takes His disciples and heads back toward Galilee, but He has a particular route He wishes to take, because He has a divine appointment with a particular person.

Note – Going through Samaria was not the route that was normally chosen because of the hatred the Jewish people had toward the Samaritans. (Explain)

The sixth hour was noontime.

Note also in this passage that Jesus was tired and thirsty. He was fully God yet also fully man, and in His humanity, He thirsted, He hungered, and He got tired.

Soul winning Principles from the Passage:

Principle One

Soul winning Must Be Done on Purpose

This does not dispute what we said before about always being ready. However, there are times that we must determine to go out explicitly for the purpose of reaching lost souls with the gospel.

Principle Two

We Must Be Willing to Go to Unusual Places

II. The Conversation (vs. 7 – 15)

Principle Three

We Must Be Willing to Reach Out to All Kinds of People

Principle Four

We must be creative in our approach to soul winning.

Here in this passage, Jesus uses the most common substance on the earth in order to lead this lady to himself: water

Water: (from A. W. Pink – The Gospel of John)

1. Water is a gift from God. It is something which man, despite all his boasted wisdom, is quite unable to create. For water we are absolutely dependent upon God. It is equally so with His salvation, of which water is here a figure.

2. Water is something which is indispensable to man. It is not a luxury, but a vital necessity. It is that without which man cannot live. It is equally so with God's salvation—apart from it men are eternally lost.

3. Water is that which meets a universal need; it is not merely a local requirement, but a general one. All are in need of water. It is also so with God's salvation. It is not merely some particular class of people, who are more wicked than their fellows, for all who are outside of Christ are lost.

4. Water is that which first *descends from the heavens*. It is not a product of the earth but comes down from above. So is it with salvation: it is "of the Lord."

5. Water is a blessed boon: it cools the fevered brow, slakes the thirst, refreshes and satisfies. And so does the salvation which is to be found in Christ. 6. Water is something

of which we never tire. Other things satiate us, but not so with water. It is equally true of God's salvation to the heart of every one who has really received it.

7. *Water is strangely and unevenly distributed by God.* In some places there is an abundance; in others very little; in others none at all. It is so with God's salvation. In some nations there are many who have been visited by the Dayspring from on high; in others there are few who have passed from death unto life; while in others there seem to be none at all.

III. The Confession of Sin (vs. 16 – 19)

Principle Five

We Must Not Avoid the Subject of Sin

The person must acknowledge his or her own guilt before a holy and righteous God.

The person must understand the penalty of sin.

The person must come to the conclusion that Christ is the only hope.

IV. Her Confusion over Religion (vs. 20 – 26)

Principle Six

We Must Stay on Point – Don't Allow Yourself to Be Sidetracked

V. The Conversion (vs. 27 – 42)

Principle Seven

We Must Take Full Advantage of All of The New Soul Winning Opportunities That Will Come from Each New Convert.

Notice in v. 28 – she left her waterpot – why? Because she now had the whole well inside of her.

Jesus stayed in Samaria for two days because of all the soul winning opportunities that came out of his conversation with the woman at the well.

Conclusion

The Woman at the well was lost, and Christ came to where she was, and saved her. Are you willing to go to unusual places where people are – maybe different people – who need Christ.