

The Gospel of John

4:27-42

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

Remember last week we continued on with Jesus speaking with the woman at the well, and the last thing we read was Jesus saying to her:

✠ **John 4:26 Jesus said to her, "*I who speak to you am He.*"**

Letting her know that He was the Messiah that she had been waiting for.

Two things I want you to notice about this whole conversation before we continue on this week.

First is that Jesus was right there the whole time telling her about eternal life, and even though He was there and she was looking at Him face to face, she still didn't understand or know that He was the Messiah that she was looking for all these years.

Why wouldn't she know it if she had been looking for Him?

Because of what everyone had told her what the Messiah would be like or even look like. They portrayed Him as a mighty warrior who would free them from the oppression they had been in all these years. But here comes this lowly man asking for a drink of water. Not what she expected.

So many people are the same way today. They are looking for a Savior or a way to heaven. They may go to church on Christmas and Easter and even on other Sundays throughout the year every once in a while.

As they hear God's word being spoken, they still don't get it, and they walk away wondering where is God in all of this, and He's saying I'm right here, but they just don't get it. Just like this woman didn't.

Just as Jesus didn't give up on this woman He doesn't give up on anyone. The thing is, they either get it like this woman finally did, or they just say forget it and walk away.

Second thing as you were reading this conversation over the last few weeks, did you notice that Jesus never threw in her face that she was a sinner, or to put it more bluntly, that she slept around with men and that she was going to burn in hell if she didn't change her ways.

No, even though Jesus had every right and could have judged her for her lifestyle, He didn't.

Jesus saw something in her that we tend to overlook in people, and that's the fact that they are looking for happiness and peace in life. Sure, she was looking in the wrong places by trying to find it in marriage or a relationship with a man. But she was looking. Jesus could see this right away and addressed her need and her hearts desire. It wasn't men or sex or marriage that she was really looking for, but someone she could depend

upon who would always be there no matter what. Someone who would love her for who she was and not if she wore the right clothes or looked good in a crowd. She was looking for a lasting relationship based upon love, God's love, and nothing more.

When we share Jesus with others we should use Jesus' example and not attack others. People know that they are sinners, and if they were really honest they don't want to be, but they can't seem to find happiness any other way. After all, the world tells them to sin is to have fun and self-satisfaction. They just forget to tell them about the consequences of their sins.

Adds for beer for example, tell you that you can have fun, friends, beautiful women or hunk of a man and your fantasies coming true.

They don't tell you the friends are there if you will supply the alcohol, the women or men are beautiful or hunks only after a few six packs, and the fantasies never happen. Also they forget to tell you about the next morning and the hangover, that beautiful woman or hunk of a man has gone and left this other woman or man there in his/her place next to you in bed, or who would post bail for you for driving drunk, or who would heal the person you hit with your car.

So look beyond the outward appearance and ask the Lord to allow you to see him or her through His eyes.

So Jesus reveals to her the truth that He's the Messiah, and if you read ahead you know what happens next.

✎ John 4:27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

Along comes Jesus close buddies, the disciples, and they knew Jesus was doing something that men shouldn't be doing. At least not good religious men. But then they also knew that Jesus was not an ordinary man. After all, He hung out with fishermen or what we would call sailors who could tell a story or two (but not in mixed company) with language as filthy as the smell they carried with them from fishing all night. In fact this Jesus even hung out with a tax collector, who we all love even today.

But even though they thought that Jesus should not be talking with her, they never said a word.

✎ John 4:28-30 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

Can you picture what is going on here? Jesus just reveals the truth to her, when all of a sudden these men (the disciples) start to walk up. She sees them and takes off back to town, leaving her waterpot behind, and goes and tells the men there in the city. Maybe

she was afraid that these men (Who she didn't know where Jesus' disciples) might have wanted to harass Jesus because He was talking to her.

Also notice that she never said to the men that Jesus was the Messiah (even though she hinted a lot that He was), but she wanted them to decide for themselves.

The scriptures don't tell us everything she said to them. It's possible she told them the whole conversation between herself and Jesus. But whatever she said, it caused the men to go out to see this Jesus that she was talking about.

✠ **John 4:31-33** *In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"*

God is too cool. One minute He's telling a woman that He's the Messiah, and the next He teaches His disciples who are concerned with the flesh and the things of this world, just like the woman was.

You also have to wonder how long it had been since Jesus had eaten, since His disciples urged or begged Him to eat something.

I'm sure they could tell that He was weary from the journey but they didn't realize that Jesus was doing what God had called Him to do and that was minister to the broken.

† **Isaiah 61:1-3** *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

Maybe when you were reading the opening of this study you could see yourself. Giving yourself to men trying to find happiness. But you know too well how empty and dirty you feel afterwards. Maybe you feel bound by this and can't seem to let go of it. After all it's a lifestyle you have lived for so long.

Maybe you are a man who uses women trying to find happiness in sex, but once again you are still lonely and empty inside.

Maybe you are brokenhearted by all of this and just don't know what to do.

Read what Isaiah said again.

Jesus is ready right now to:

- **Preach good tidings to the poor**
- **Heal the brokenhearted**
- **Proclaim liberty to the captives**
- **Opening of the prison to those who are bound**
- **Proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD**
- **Comfort all who mourn,**

- *Console those who mourn to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness.*

Which one(s) do you fall under?

- † ***Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.***

Is your spirit broken? Today the Lord wants to heal your broken spirit. All you have to do is ask Him!

Just pray:

Jesus, I am some or all of these things, and have been searching for peace and comfort in this world and have not found it. I have only found loneliness and emptiness. I have lived a life of sin trying to be fulfilled. Please forgive me for all my sins, and I give my life over to You completely. I also turn from these sins as I turn to a new life in You Jesus. Thank You for Your forgiveness and the comfort and peace You now have given me. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and may I proclaim this good news to all who have been like me, lost and empty. I ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!

If you just prayed this prayer you are now a Christian. Welcome to the family of God. You have just received the ultimate gift, which is God's Son who was sent for you and the whole world.

I would encourage you go tell someone what you just did, keep praying everyday, reading God's word everyday and find a good bible teaching church to go to.

Jesus goes on to answer His disciples:

- ✠ ***John 4:34-38 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."***

Jesus puts it all into prospective. We seem to want to eat, or make sure we are cared for before we will help others out.

But we seem to forget that the Lord always provides for us, and even if we missed lunch or dinner, we can still minister to others.

We also will want to wait for big events like Christmas or Christmas Eve or Easter at church to share Jesus with others. But Jesus says they are ready right now, why wait months when they can be saved right now.

Jesus tells His disciples to ***lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!***

As His disciples do this, they saw the men coming who the woman had went and told about Jesus. These may have been the religious leaders of the town, and being religious leaders their heads were covered with white turbans. So as they looked, all they saw was this mass of white coming up the hill towards them.

Jesus then gives a prophecy of what will happen with these men. Did you see it?

✎ ***"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."***

Jesus labored and shared Himself with the woman that He was the Messiah, in turn she went and told the men who were now coming.

As these men came I'm sure the disciples spoke with them about Jesus also. (Once you have experienced being with Jesus, you want to tell everyone about Him!)

And we see these results in the next verses.

✎ ***John 4:39-40 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.***

They believed because the woman told them about Jesus. They didn't know everything and neither did she, but what she had told them was enough for them to believe in Him.

We tend to think we can't witness unless we have gone to school or seminary. Maybe you are not a pastor or even a teacher, your gifts may not even be for evangelism. But still that should not stop you from giving your testimony of Jesus.

This woman had spent maybe five or ten minutes with Jesus at the most. She didn't know the spiritual laws, she did know some of the bible, but even had a lack of understanding of it.

Still it didn't prevent her from telling what she knew.

How much do you know about Jesus? Maybe little.

How much do you know of how He has changed your life? Maybe a lot.

This is what you share with others. Don't try to fumble your way through it, guessing what the bible says or making things up. Just tell them how Jesus has affected your life.

✎ ***John 4:41-42 And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."***

As they listened to Jesus and spent time with Him, it became more than just a knowledge that was second hand. They came to believe even more because they found His words to be true.

Maybe you believed (and most do) by the testimony of someone else. But you won't really get to know Jesus until you spend time with Him yourself.

How do you do that?

Simply by prayer and reading His word.

Why not start today!

That's it for this week. Next week Jesus makes it to Galilee.

May God richly bless you, for all time!