

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:3-9

Introduction:

- A. Jesus passes through Samaria to get from Judea to Galilee.
- B. Jesus stops to rest at Jacob's well at Sychar in Samaria.
 - 1. Being human as well as Divine, he became weary.
 - 2. Disciples go to buy food (v. 8).
 - 3. A Samaritan woman comes to draw water.
- C. Jesus' dealings with the Samaritan woman is a wonderful example for personal evangelism.
- D. Jesus illustrates four basic needs that each of us needs to recognize if the church is going to grow.

Discussion:

I. The Need That People Have for the Gospel.

- A. Jesus needed water, the woman living water (vv. 7-15).
- B. Living water represents all benefits in Christ:
 - 1. "In whom ..." (Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:14; 2:3)
 - 2. Abundant (to the full -NIV) living (John 10:10)
 - a. Prayer and providence.
 - b. Fellowship and hope.
 - 3. Everlasting life (v. 14)

II. The Need to Reach All Peoples.

- A. Even those of a despised race (v. 9; cf. John 8:48) — Gospel for all races (Acts 10:34, 35).
- B. Even those of immoral character (vv. 17,18) — Gospel changes people (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- C. Even those of another religion (v. 20) — Paganism, Judaism, perverted Christianity.

III. The Need to Seize the Opportunity.

- A. Even when tired and weary (v. 6).
- B. By recognizing and making the most of even casual openings.
 - 1. A conversation about drinking water turned to one of living water (v. 10)
 - 2. A remark about different places of worship used to teach about true worship (vv. 20-24).
 - 3. A request to eat used to teach about spiritual food (vv. 31-38).

IV. The Need to Teach Just One Person.

- A. Two great lessons of all time first taught to one person.
 - 1. New birth to Nicodemus (John 3:1-5).
 - 2. The truth nature of worship to this woman (v. 24).
- B. One person's soul important enough to be taught.
 - 1. Soul of "a man" worth more than world. (Mk. 8:36,37).
 - 2. "A man" of Ethiopia important to the Lord (Acts 8:27ff).
- C. One person's potential influence could be great.
 - 1. This woman's influence (vv. 28-30, 39-41).
 - 2. Brenda Needham's phone call to church building.

Conclusion:

- A. Best bird hunters aim at one bird at a time rather than shooting into the covey.
- B. We cannot *just* play to the crowds with planned efforts: gospel meetings, radio, tv, papers, door-knocking blitzes, visitation programs, etc. (Not against these, if any of these efforts reach just one in the crowd, it is worth the effort & expense)
- C. But, church will not really grow until more Christians learn to imitate Jesus at Jacob's well.