

JESUS IS THE ONE WHO CONFRONTS

John 4:1-45

INTRODUCTION

- John 4 describes three major interactions:
 - Woman at the well
 - Jesus with His disciples
 - Jesus with an official
- In each of these encounters, Jesus cuts through peripheral issues to address the most important issue.

INTRODUCTION

- The conversation Jesus has with the woman at the well is the longest recorded conversation we have of Jesus with anyone (including the disciples).
- In this section, Jesus discusses the nature of true worship, the significance of the Gospel, and the idea of faith.
- With the healing of the official's son, Jesus continues to demonstrate His authority and nature.

SEEK LIVING WATER AND
LET GO OF OLD WAYS
OF THINKING

JOHN 4:1-26

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus and the disciples had been walking since sunrise. Now the sun was directly overhead.
- In July, the temperature can top out at over 105 degrees.
- Anyone at this point would be hot, tired, and thirsty.
- Then a woman from Sychar comes along to draw water from the well that was outside the village.

CONFRONT PREJUDICE

- vs 4 - “He had to pass through Samaria” - Jesus has to pass this way because of geography. It was the shortest route.
- Samaria was the usual route taken by travelers from Judea to Galilee. But strict Jews would take a longer route (cross the Jordan) in order to avoid defilement.
- The verb “had to” suggests divine necessity. Jesus intended to meet this woman. She is about to have a divine appointment with Jesus.

CONFRONT PREJUDICE

- Samaritans were racially mixed (part Jewish, part Gentile) since they intermarried with Mesopotamian colonists in the land (starting in 722 B.C.).
- The Samaritans also had their own version of the Pentateuch, their own temple on Mt. Gerizim, and their own interpretation of Israelite history.
- vs. 9 - Jews had no dealings with Samaritans, John includes this note for those outside of Israel.

CONFRONT PREJUDICE

- Jews considered Samaritans in a continual state of uncleanness. They would have thought that drinking water from this woman's jar would make a person ceremonially unclean.
- Jesus, as a Jew, should have had no interaction with the Samaritan woman. But she has physical water He needs; and He has Living Water she needs.
- Jesus made it clear that salvation was for everyone. Jesus came to save the lost (Luke 19:10).

CONFRONT PREJUDICE

- The woman understood that Jesus was a Jew by His dress and probably by His accent.
- Three surprises in these verses:
 - That a Jew would speak to a Samaritan.
 - That a man would speak to a woman.
 - That a Jew would drink from a Samaritan's cup.

CONFRONT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- vs. 10 - Jesus cut right to the basics and offered living water (ambiguous, could also mean running water).
- Gift of God - only appears here in the Gospels and refers to Living Water.
- Notice that Jesus does call Himself “the Bread of Life” but does not call Himself “the Living Water.”
- Living water symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

FILL MY CUP, LORD

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking
Draw from the well that never shall run dry.

Chorus

Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

CONFRONT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- Consider the comparison to Nicodemus:
 - Both thought they were spiritually secure.
 - Both did not understand the teaching of Jesus.
 - Both were spiritually empty and seem to know that they needed God.
 - Both were spiritually lost, which was the root of all of their problems.

CONFRONT PURSUIT OF FULFILLMENT

- Verses 16-18 - “call your husband” - reveals a life of sin on the part of the woman. She pursued many men in her life and was currently living in sin.
- Jesus begins the conversation that would end in a recognition of her desire for fulfillment that would not come from a man, a custom, or a heritage.
- She needed to be reminded of her sin and then see that fulfillment only comes from the Living Water.

CONFRONT PURSUIT OF FULFILLMENT

- Since she was not able to receive truth, Jesus dealt with her most basic problem. It also helped her understand that He knew her sinful situation.
- When Jesus asked her to get her husband, He used that request to illustrate that He knew everything about her. We have seen this before (Nathanael).
- He used this question to reveal her life of sin and her need for salvation.

CONFRONT FAULTY THINKING

- vs. 19 - Her response is significant, she recognized that He was not just another rabbi. She perceived that Jesus was a prophet.
- Then she threw out a “red herring.” Could Jesus resolve an ancient dispute about where to worship?
- Even at this point, she was read to engage in a theological debate - should Jews and Samaritans worship in Jerusalem or on Mount Gerizim?

CONFRONT FAULTY THINKING

- Jesus explains they won't have to travel to a temple to worship God.
- They can worship God in every place because the Holy Spirit will dwell in them.
- Application: God is greater than geography, race, class, and religious tradition. True worship is not where you are, or how you sing, or even when you practice it. It's about your devotion to God.

CONFRONT FAULTY THINKING

- Application: Salvation is not limited to the Jews. The gospel has an “equal access” provision.
- Salvation is not going to the right mountain. It is going to God acknowledging your need for Him.
- vs. 26 - She now recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah who will some day come. This is not what she expected when she came to draw water!

**GIVE THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT THINGS THE
GREATEST ATTENTION**

JOHN 4:27-45

THE GOSPEL WITNESS

- The disciples return to an unexpected conversation that has taken place.
- They question why He was spending time with the woman and neglecting eating.
- The woman is so excited that she forget her water jar at the well. That is less important than her witness.
- She came to the well alone (outcast) but now runs into the village to share the good news with others.

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

- The disciples also noticed that Jesus changed.
- Before He was tired and thirsty. Now food and drink were not important to Him.
- “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me.”
- Picking up on the food metaphor, he explains that there is an opportunity for ministry - “the field are white for harvest.” We just need spiritual vision.

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

- As reapers, the disciples had the great and rewarding privilege of leading people to faith in Christ.
- Others had already done the work of sowing - refers to John the Baptists and Old Testament prophets.
- Samaritan evangelism had begun with a woman who hadn't even been trained in evangelism.
- vs. 39 - many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus Christ because of the woman's testimony.

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

- Jesus gives us a model for evangelism:
 - Jesus was friendly.
 - Jesus asked questions.
 - Jesus showed concern for human need.
 - Jesus explained the Scriptures.
 - Jesus brought the good news.

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

- vs. 42 - The response shows they understood the gospel - “we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” They understood what many of the Jews never understood.
- Notice the change in their theology and worldview in just two days (vs. 43).
- Before they debated the site of worship. Now they proclaimed that Jesus was the Savior of the world.

TRIP TO GALILEE

- It had been an exciting two days in Samaria, but now it was time to head north to Galilee.
- Notice that John says that a prophet has no honor in his hometown.
- Notice also that the Galileans welcomed him because of what they had seen in Jerusalem at the feast.
- Miracles in Jerusalem did not have much impact on those in the city, but did outside of the city.



CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM

JESUS IS OUR MODEL

- Jesus takes a posture of humility by asking for water.
- Jesus crosses barriers (race, gender, power, position) and risked his reputation as a rabbi.
- Jesus pricked her curiosity and guided the conversation from physical to spiritual things.
- Jesus started with the known - beliefs held in common by Jews and Gentiles - and moved to the unknown.

JESUS IS OUR MODEL

- Jesus demonstrated the power of God by telling her about herself (He was listening to God's leading).
- Jesus convicted her of sin without shaming her.
- Jesus doesn't debate secondary issues such as where to worship. He goes to the important issue.
- Jesus teaches about worship of the heart - it is a relationship not a religion.

