

20 - John 4:1- The King of Glory Comes Down to The Well

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week we finished chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. Jesus commissioned His disciples to baptize people as they repented of their sins and followed Him. They baptized people right down the river from John The Baptist and his disciples. John's disciples tempted John to be jealous of Jesus and compete with Him. But John would have none of it.

Our challenge was to set aside that which tempts us to compete with God and His plans for our life, His church and our world. We left chapter 3 with the emphasis that Jesus is glorious and higher than any man. Jesus is the Son of God. Angels bow and worship Him. In **chapter 4** we see this King of glory coming down from heaven to pursue the lowest person with love, forgiveness and salvation.

READING THE TEXT (stand)

John 4:1-19 (ESV)

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to

draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 4: 1-3 (ESV)

¹ Now when (Jesus learned) that (the Pharisees had heard) that (Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John) ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples),³ (he left Judea) and departed again for Galilee.

AVOIDING THE PHARISEES (for now)

The Pharisees noticed Jesus was now the top dog on the river. The Pharisees were interested in killing off anyone who might compete with their religious power. They wanted to be in control. Their pride demanded it. They would soon devise a plan to take down Jesus.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

So why did Jesus not stand up to the Pharisees? Well... Jesus had 12 disciples to train. He had crowds to teach, parables to tell, people to heal and a church and a kingdom to build. He could not get caught into a battle with the Pharisees right now. That would undermine God's timing for His ministry.

GIANTS TO SLAY - IN GOD'S TIMING

There is a word of application for us. There are times God will ask us to take on some really big things. But we must pray God would give us not only the vision of where He is leading us, but also the timing. The anointing and power and favor of God is available only when we follow Him **in His will** and **His timing**. It is possible to embrace the right vision with the wrong timing and still fail. Timing is part of the right vision and calling from God.

Jesus would re engage the Pharisees later. Now was not the right time. The challenge right in front of Him is not the immediate ministry of God's will.

⁴ And he (Jesus) had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

The route that Jesus took is the one that God thought up. Jesus came all the way from heaven to end up on this particular day and hour and minute at Jacob's well just as

His next assignment comes on the scene. The number of variables that God controls just to get us the gospel and work His will in our life is incredible.

JESUS “HAD” TO PASS THROUGH SAMARIA

Samaria was not the easiest or fastest or only route. Jesus ***had to pass through Samaria*** because it was God’s plan for Him to do so.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET

Almost every Jew would avoid the route taken by Jesus. After all, this route would lead a Jew into the middle of people that were considered unclean and hated. A Jew could not share the same utensils or plates or bowls with a Samaritan otherwise he would be unclean. Being unclean will get you banned from the synagogue and shunned by friends and family.

*****See Website** for background that led up to a great rift between Jews and Samaritans

DEEP SEATED PREJUDICE

This animosity and prejudice between Jew and Samaritan was born nearly 700 years prior to Jesus. Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel and

took captive the best and brightest men of Israel into His country. Pagan men were moved into Israel and given free reign to marry Israeli women.

The children born to those mixed raced couples were called half breeds by the Jews. When God gave the Jews favor to rebuild the temple these Samaritans were not allowed to contribute in any way.

This began a deep seated hatred and separation of the two groups of people.

That a Jew named Jesus would seek to minister in this area is a big deal. He is breaking down man made barriers between people in order to draw every one of them into the same church and same kingdom. There is neither Jew or Samaritan in Christ Jesus.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

This woman came to the well at the sixth hour which is about noon. Due to the midday heat, no one drew water at noon; except those shunned by many who would appear at the well during the cool of the morning.

GIVE ME A DRINK

Jesus sat patiently knowing this particular woman would soon come along. His disciples carried the right gear to get water from a 100 foot well. But they went into town leaving Jesus high and dry.

This woman was surprised that Jesus would speak to her and even more surprised that he would ask her to share a drinking vessel.

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

PRE-EVANGELISM

Are you familiar with the term “pre-evangelism?” Pre-evangelism is hanging out with people that need to gospel but who will not darken the doors of the church. Jesus knows that speaking to this woman is a taboo. But her soul is destined to show off the grace and mercy of God.

Not only does he speak with her. Jesus acknowledges that her life and soul matter to God.

WALK TOWARD THE REJECTED

We are often called by God to embrace and walk toward those who have been rejected by others but who are loved by God. Each of us can have the heart of Jesus for the lost. But first we need to die to ourselves and let Jesus kill our desire to impress the proud and popular rather than to serve the lost.

Here is a pattern that many of us see in winning the lost from outside the church context.

First show that person the love of Christ.

Second, serve the lost in love as The Spirit directs you. Jesus went out of His way for the lost and that is often our calling as well.

Thirdly, pray that God would give us an opportunity to share the good news of eternal life and forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ.

Fourth, pray that God would remove the spiritual blindness from that person so they can hear the gospel without shutting down. And use spiritual discernment to work in God's timing.

She is not sure what to think about Jesus. So she reminds him of that which divides them.

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

JESUS THE GIVER OF LIVING WATER

She seems reluctant because of all her past shame and rejection. Jesus is willing to serve her living water. This term is confusing to her. She is stuck on the physical and thinking nothing about spiritual matters. Look at her response to Jesus and His mention of living water.

¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

ENGINEERING SKILLS OR SOMETHING ELSE?

This woman is confused but curious. Jesus used the subject of the well and water to spark a conversation about the deeper things of God.

But this woman is wondering if Jesus is some sort of super engineer who can build a better well than Jacob. Perhaps He is a plumber who can run water straight into her house. She wants a plumber and He is offering salvation and eternal life.

¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of **this water** will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of **the water that I will give** him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Jesus is making a contrast between the water that she offers and the water that He offers. He says that the water He offers will give a person eternal life. At this point you would think this woman would understand that Jesus is not speaking of literal water but of a metaphor related to the power of God and eternal life. But her response shows

that she still does not get it. She may be trying to avoid thoughts and conversations about God.

THE WELL SPRING EFFECT

Jesus mentioned ***water welling up to eternal life***.

Two weeks ago I was in a room with the Free Church Pastors of this area. One of them shared many challenges that were going on both personally and in his church. The circumstances in his life kept draining his strength and taxing his emotions. But all of of sudden a rush of joy would well up in his heart.

Despite his circumstances The Spirit of God kept bringing Him back to joy and hope. That is what our great God and Savior offers, joy and hope despite our circumstances. That is the nature of having the presence of The Holy Spirit move into your spirit and soul. His joy becomes ours. His strength becomes ours. The Samaritan woman was not tracking with Jesus. She is stuck on the physical realm just like Nicodemus in chapter 3.

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

She is ignoring the phrase “eternal life.” She thinks it would be so awesome to avoid the long walk from her house to draw water.

She is looking for magic water, or perhaps a plumber who can run water directly into her house. She does not need indoor plumbing. She needs the gift of salvation. She needs the living water of the Spirit of God.

Often we think the solution to our problems is more money or more house or a better job or a relationship. The answer to your lack of joy is the wellspring of life and joy that God will give you.

Jesus gets more direct. She is not picking up the subtleties. So Jesus will expose her need for a Savior and forgiveness. Something He does in all of our lives.

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying,

‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.’

Jesus knew of this woman’s sin even before He went out of His way to journey to this specific well to meet her. It is worth His time to pursue you and meet you where you are at.

PRIMARY METHOD:

Often when Jesus pursues people or uses us to give away His love and grace the following pattern is evident.

1. Jesus speaks to us in our life context
2. Create a great thirst for eternal life
3. Provide the spiritual food (*bread of life*) to quench our hunger and thirst for God and His word and His fellowship.

THE PROBLEM IS SIN

Many people present the gospel by stating that God has a wonderful plan for your life and you can have a personal relationship with Him. The biggest problem of every person is sin, and that is the right place to begin. Many people do not want to talk about sin because they

feel shame and want to run from such conversations. It's kind of like walking into a cancer unit and talking about nothing but cancer and how serious and deadly it can be.

But if people face their sin and are honest in front of God and His people they can be released from the horrible shame that keeps coming back time after time. If there was no sin Jesus would not have had to come to earth. Salvation is about God convicting us of our sin and then offering to save us from sin.

SIN IN FRONT OF A HOLY GOD

The next harsh reality that is exposed by this passage is that every single sin and shameful act and thought is played out directly in front of the eyes of God. This woman burned through several marriages. Now she was shacking up with someone else, and each sexual sin was performed directly in view of The Holy God of Heaven and Earth.

We can not hide our sin from God. Jesus was able to list all of her sins. And our sin will poison our relationship with God in three specific ways.

First, sin brings us under God's judgment.

Second, sin separates us from God because sin offends and repels God's holy nature.

Third, sin separates us from God because our sin and resulting guilt and shame makes us uneasy in His presence.

The good news is that Jesus came from heaven to show us how to remove God judgment and our shame and restore our right standing with God.

This woman finally realizes that Jesus is not just a plumber who can bring water straight into her house. He is not a magician who can give her magic water that would prevent her from having physical thirst. This is someone sent by God to address her life and offer the gift of salvation.

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."

She was slow to realize He is a prophet. He is so much more than a prophet. But now she is on the right track. God has sent someone to her. God cared about her enough to send someone to help her undo the trainwreck

that her life had become. Jesus patiently instructed her heart and created thirst within her for His living water of salvation.

Know that you might be the person that God will send in His name to the woman at the well in Stanley, Thorp, Boyd, Chippewa, Gilman or Humbird:) Where there is a woman at the well, there is someone that God will send with the good news. Why not you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. God's mission (who is the woman at the well in your life?)
2. God's timing (are you fighting against or working with God's timing?)
3. Are you experiencing the wellspring of life and hope and joy?
4. How does it affect you to know that your entire life is lived out directly in the sight and presence of our Holy God?
5. Do you know the Savior who came a long way for you?