

22 - God Sightings and Our Witness

John 4:27 - 34 (ESV)

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week we heard about Jesus who was with the woman at the well. He told her that true worshippers would worship in spirit and in truth. Worshipping in spirit means that we worship from the depths of our heart and soul. Worshipping in truth is to have the right God in mind as you worship and live your life to God. Many believe God is super stern and ungraceful and others have the idea of God who is their buddy who does not care how we live. Worship in spirit and worship in truth. Know God as He reveals Himself in the word. Worship Him with all your heart, mind and body.

Today we will begin in verse 27 where we will see the disciples coming on the scene as Jesus is speaking grace and truth to the woman at the well.

READING THE TEXT - John 4:27-34

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 33 So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

PREACHING THE TEXT

JOHN 4:27 - 34

27 Just then his disciples came back.

Jesus told the woman at the well that believers are no longer bound to worship in Jerusalem or on Mount Gerizim

(or in a fancy church with columns and stain glass), but they must worship in spirit and truth. Just then the disciples return. Here is how John describes the disciples reaction when they saw Jesus ministering to a woman of the hated Samaritan race.

(verse 27 continued) ***They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”***

THEY MARVELED “AT THE WHO”

Why did they marvel that Jesus spoke with a woman? And why is it such a big deal that the disciples did not say anything?

First of all they marvelled because it was taboo to speak to a woman, especially those who were not accompanied by her husband.

One commentary informs us; There were meticulous rules governing the relations of men and women in public, **even husbands and wives**. One of the **sayings of the Rabbis went: “A man shall not be alone**

with a woman in an inn, not even with his sister or his daughter, on account of what men may think. A man shall not talk with a woman in the street, not even with his own wife, and especially not with another woman, on account of what men may say.”

Yet here was Jesus ministering powerfully to her. I'm sure they could tell she was being transformed by the grace and power of The Son of God. Jesus broke the social taboo. He ignored the rules that people had added to the community that did not come from God and His word.

Second, this woman was a Samaritan. Jews were prejudice against Samaritans often referring to them half breeds. One was considered unclean and unfit for worship if he or she came in close contact with a Samaritan. Think of how that would go over in our culture.

These rules did not come from the bible. Jesus knew this woman at the well needed the living water that only He could offer. He knew what her reaction would be. He

came a long way to save her. Salvation is on the line and that is a good reason to disregard extra-biblical regulations.

THE DID NOT SAY

Why does the Apostle John (this book's author) bother to record their reaction? ***no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"***

Normally Jewish men would have asked the woman at the well if she were trying to morally compromise Jesus or bothering him in some way? And most Jews would have asked Him why he was speaking to this half-breed Samaritan woman?

They did not ask the questions most Jewish men would have asked. And they did not throw these extra biblical social norms in the face of Jesus. They are not treating their comfort zone like gospel.

John The Gospel Author Is Proud

I think John includes their reaction in this gospel because he is proud of the disciples. The disciples on this occasion assumed the best of Jesus and the woman. They knew the character of Jesus and assumed that he was healing her or offering her teaching or eternal life.

An equivalent might be our reaction when we observe someone ministering the gospel using different methods than we are accustomed to. Our methods are not the gospel. We can not treat them as such.

So the disciples assume the best of Jesus showing no malice or prejudice toward this Samaritan woman. Bravo!

Verse 28 shows the woman's reaction to the prophecy and grace of Jesus Christ. She believed Him when He said He was the Christ.

²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

GOING AND TELLING

She set down her water. The water could wait until later. She has a sense of excitement and urgency welling up within her as she hurried back to town to share her amazing discovery. The Messiah The Christ has arrived at Jacob's Well. When you encounter the Son of God as she had transformation takes place. Excitement grabs your soul. As God pours out grace and freedom into your heart, excitement and joy floods your soul and you can't wait to share with others what Jesus has done in your life.

TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE IN HIS PRESENCE

Each of us need to continually be refreshed and healed in the presence of Jesus. Our love for Jesus needs to be renewed each day. Everyday things will cry out to us and promise satisfaction but they lead to shame, addiction and enslavement. Only Jesus will truly meet the longings of our heart and serve as our satisfaction. He is the satisfaction our soul truly longs for. And we need to come back to Him often to be refreshed. All day long things cry

out to us from this world and lie to us suggesting that we can be satisfied and find joy in them.

The promotion is satisfying, but then in short order we will want the next promotion or raise. Sexually illicit pictures come across the computer screen and tempt us to click a few times and find satisfaction. But when we click we find shame and no lasting satisfaction at all. The latest fad promises to put a smile on our faces like the smile of the models who wear the latest clothing line. We order, we wear, and then we set aside looking for what is next. Jesus alone is our satisfaction. He alone meets the deep longing in our heart for joy and meaning and life.

We must renew our minds in the word of God and in the presence of Jesus. Otherwise we are certain to lose our joy and our focus. We will have little to share with others when our joy and the Spirit drains from our lives.

Students of Evangelism: *It has been pointed out by students of evangelism that most of the spontaneous, real witnessing is done by new believers within two years after*

their conversion. As they are drawn into more and more church activities, they become domesticated, begin to worry about what people will think, and lose that early, joyous abandon. What a tragedy!

Don't let your love grow cold. Continue to be like the woman at the well who found Jesus and was so excited about her discovery that she rushed away to tell others about her amazing find, her great treasure, Jesus, The Son of God. So this woman went and told the town what happened and then she returned to His presence bringing others with her.

³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to (Jesus) him.

THEY WERE COMING CONTINUOUSLY

The people hurried out to see who it was that had transformed this woman's countenance and given her hope and joy instead of shame and sorrow. They ***"came to Him,"*** which literally means they *"kept coming out."* Can you imagine the scene as one by one people in the town

see this woman running from person to person sharing that she had found The Christ?

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

RABBI EAT!

It is a nice gesture and a show of love that the disciples want to make sure Jesus is well fed. But they did not even bother to check and see if someone was getting saved or healed or set free.

So let's put down the brats and potato salad for a few moments and celebrate that this woman has discovered the living water of Jesus. This is a holy moment. Pay attention to see if God is going to do something miraculous before you worry about routine things like eating.

The thoughts of Jesus may have been on whether she will come back with others. What does the Father

want me to say to them? Will they need healing or grace or both? Let's focus on that so we are not caught without words to say and the heart to help those who come.

So, no He was not interested in food right now. He had to pray until this God sighting was seen all the way through. Then He would think about things like food. Until then His food was getting energized by this exciting breakout of the kingdom of God.

So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

They are still locked in on the food. Eventually they would learn to walk in spiritual discernment so they could focus on that which was most important. When the worship service is over I am often eager to get to lunch. I am mildly diabetic and things don't go well if I fail to have regular meals every few hours.

But often when i am getting it right I walk the aisle after service and I just linger and pray and ask God to bring someone to mind that he would like me to pray for

our encourage. On many occasions God will bring someone to mind and I will try to make a bee-line to them and speak to them the things that God has put on my heart to say.

Sometimes this can have a dramatic impact because God is the one who thinks up the words and encounter that should happen. And since He thought it up, then when we follow through God will work powerfully in the heart of people as we speak or pray or do what God has led us to do.

When I feel a sense of release then I know it is time to go home and head for the kitchen....and then the tv to watch the football game. But first comes the feeding on spiritual food. This is the kind of thing to which Jesus refers when;

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

Jesus was so engrossed with the woman’s spiritual well-being that he cared little about anything else. Perhaps

our Lord was even thinking about the words he was going to say when she returned with many others.

"I have food to eat, and I am not hungry at this time because I am caught up in what will happen in this woman's life."

He could easily have deflected all the talk about his eating simply by courteously taking a morsel and making a kind remark, but instead he directed their attention to higher matters. He said in

verse 32, "*I have food to eat that you do not know about.*"

The "I" and the "you" here are emphatic. "I have something that you do not have!" He was attempting to draw them to what he wanted to say and teach. When their curiosity was sufficiently aroused, he said, **(v. 34) "*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work*"**

“I wish,” he implies, “that you had the same food I have. I put the highest emphasis on God’s will and work in my life. I’m checking in with the Father to see if there is someone He wants to bless or heal or save. That is my food.”

A word for us is this; pray that God will help you to see where He is at work. Stay engaged with God. Pray that he would show you who He wants you to speak with or pray for or encourage or call. When we follow through with the things that the Spirit of god is doing we eat this mysterious food of which Jesus spoke. We will be involved in God sightings and encounters in which people are getting saved or set free. And that must become our top priority.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is it your habit to pay attention to where the Spirit of God is at work and make that the most immediate priority?

2. Is the Spirit of God causing you to realize that you need to come back to Jesus and find your satisfaction in Him alone?
3. Jesus delivered salvation to people the Jews despised. Is there someone you have labeled as an opponent that perhaps God may be at work saving or setting free?
4. How did God challenge you most in this lesson?