

A Life-Changing Conversation John 4:1-30

INTRODUCTION

For this morning, I would like to focus our attention not so much on motherhood but on an encounter between Jesus and a woman. Let us focus on a life-changing conversation. **Two strangers meet beside a well on a hot afternoon in Samaria. One was a woman. The other was a man.** We don't know the woman's name. The man was Jesus. Their conversation changed her life.

Please turn in your Bible to John 4:1-30. The biblical account of Jesus and the woman at the well is very familiar. **It's a simple story yet profound in its application.** A man meets a woman in a seemingly chance encounter. In a few brief moments her life is changed forever. **There are lessons here about racial prejudice, religious hatred, and dealing with moral outcasts.** This story also conveys valuable truth about how to do reach out to others with the Good News (evangelism).

Please note the following...

I. First _____ (4:1-8)

A. The _____

As the woman looks at Jesus and He at her, **four invisible walls** stand between them. **There is a _____ wall, a _____ wall, a _____ wall, and a _____ wall.** Yet our Lord found a way through all of them. **He found her ... and then she found Him!**

B. The divine _____

Why did Jesus **“had to go”** through **Samaria** when the Jews either didn't go there at all or passed through as quickly as possible? The answer is simple and profound: Jesus went because He intended to meet this woman. **Jesus was ‘on mission’ – 3:14, 9:4, 10:16, 20:9 contain the same verb translated ‘had to’.** In the same way, He knew she would be coming to the well at precisely the moment He was sitting there weary from His journey. Nothing happens by chance in this encounter. Every detail is part of the outworking of God's will. And that, I think, is a hugely important point. **The woman isn't looking for Jesus. All she wants is water. But Jesus is looking for her.** You have to go to Samaria if you want to reach Samaritans. He doesn't avoid Samaria and He doesn't hurry through it. **Though she does not know it, this woman had a “divine appointment” with the Son of God.**

From this we can take a very important principle for us: reaching people for Christ is not always comfortable and may at times be difficult. But you must go where people are if you want to reach them at all. Comfort is not the issue.

In His approach we see the great heart of our Lord Jesus is without prejudice. It matters not to Him that others would not go to Samaria and others would not speak to this woman. He welcomes all and shuns none. **Luke 19:10** tells us that the Lord Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

II. An enticing _____ (4:9-15)

When the woman saw Jesus, she knew he was a Jew by his dress and probably also by his accent. She knew he was a stranger just passing through. **In the first century it was almost unheard of for a man to speak to a woman in public in those circumstances.** And to ask for a drink of water was even more unusual since the Rabbis taught that it was a sin to touch a utensil that a Samaritan had touched.

When Jesus offers her **“living water,”** He is being deliberately ambiguous because the phrase could also mean **‘running water’**. He is trying to incite her curiosity without making her suspicious. **“You came here for water. I’ve got water you’ve never dreamed of before.”** He is leading her step by step. **First,** He leads her to see her need, **then** He reveals who He is, **then** He offers her something that could change her life. He is offering not to quench her thirst but to banish it once and for all. This is what is called a **“teachable moment.”** I am struck by the fact that Jesus returns again and again to the central issue: **“Do you know who I am? If you knew my true identity, you could ask, and I would give you water that leads to eternal life. And not just a drink of water but a gushing spring that will well up within your heart.”**

III. A needed _____ (4:16-26)

Up to this point, the woman does not appear to have been clear about the matter of spiritual transformation. Jesus had told her about the water of eternal life, and she seemed willing to accept it. But she must deal with **two crucial issues** before she can receive the living water of eternal life:

A. The reality of _____ (4:16-18)

The words of Jesus are a verbal slap in the face, and yet it was the most loving thing He could have done for her.

- There is an important spiritual principle at work here: **without _____ of sin there can be no _____ from sin.**

B. The reality of the _____ (4:19-26)

- **God wants worship that is based on truth and a wholehearted personal commitment to Him.**
- **The worship God accepts must be based on the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and offered to Him from a humble heart of faith.**

IV. A _____ life (4:27-30)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? This story has much to teach us about how to share our faith and how to minister for the Lord. Here are several lessons we should take with us:

1. **See _____, not _____.**

2. _____ the message to the _____
you're talking to.

3. **Carry out the _____ God has given _____.**

4. **Jesus alone _____, Jesus alone ultimately _____.**