

***SERMON: "Come And See" Delivered 06 02 19 E A Terry***

John 1:43 – 51; Matthew 28: 16 – 20; Acts 1: 6 – 11; **John 4: 1 - 42 (Sermon)**

In verse 3 we are told Jesus and His disciples left Judea and were going to Galilee.

That was a distance of about 65 miles or a 2 - 3 day journey walking.

Verse 4 tells us Jesus ***"had to go through Samaria"***.

Geographically Samaria is between Galilee which is in the northern part of Israel and Judea which is in the southern part of Israel.

In order for us to get the full impact of this story we need to know who the Samaritans are.

The Samaritans were Jews who intermarried with the Assyrians and Canaanites.

This violated The Law of Moses which stated that the Hebrews were only to marry Hebrews.

The Jews did not consider the Samaritans to be citizens of Israel since the Samaritans half-breeds.

Therefore the Samaritans could not offer sacrifices in the Temple.

To make matters worse, the Samaritans tried to sabotage Nehemiah's rebuilding of the Temple in 443 BC.

The Jews and the Samaritans hated each other.

It was so bad that most Jews would not travel through Samaria and they would not talk to a Samaritan.

Jesus having to go through Samaria is a reference to Jesus' mission rather than geographically.

Sychar was a small village in Samaria near Shechem.

Jesus being tired and thirsty from His journey. (Verse 6) speaks of the humanity of Jesus.

It was about noon when a Samaritan came to draw water.

Jesus said to the woman; ***"Will you give me a drink?"*** (Verse 7)

Verse 9 shows us the animosity and racial bias between the Jews and the Samaritans.

***"The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)"***

Notice Jesus initiates the conversation with this woman about physical water because Jesus wants to meet this woman's spiritual need which is for Living Water.

The woman was surprised that a Jew would ask a Samaritan for a drink.

But she found out later that she is the one who is thirsty.

In verse 10 Jesus said; ***“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would ask him and he would give you living water.”***

In a secular sense living water was running water.

Tradition has it that Jacob's Well was originally an artesian well; meaning water flowed out of the ground.

Later a well was dug there to store up water.

So when Jesus told the woman He would give her living water she assumed that Jesus had to be a miracle worker who could make the water flow up out of the well since he did not have a bucket.

In a spiritual sense living water refers to The Holy Spirit.

Jesus said;” ***whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.***” (Verse 14)

To this the woman replied; ***“Sir give me this water so I won't get thirsty and keep coming to draw water.”***

When Jesus told her; ***“Go call your husband and come back.”***(Verse 16)

***She replied; “I have no husband.”***(Verse 17)

***Then Jesus said you are right ... the fact is you have had five husbands and the man you have now is not your husband.”*** (Verse 18)

Then in verse 19 the woman says; ***“Sir I can see you are a prophet.”***

In verse 20 the woman asks Jesus a question; ***“should we go to the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices or is it alright to offer sacrifices in the local temple that the Samaritans built for worship?”***

Jesus answers the woman's question in verses 21 – 24.

***“Woman, “believe me; a time is coming when you will worship The Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what***

***we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.***

In other words Jesus said; worshipping God is not about geography and you will never find what you need in a religion.

Worship is your heart felt response to who God is and what God has done for you.

You will only find what you so desperately need is a personal relationship with God our Father.

This woman's question asking where she should worship may have been her attempt to change the subject because she knew Jesus was causing her to take a serious look at her spiritual life.

When anyone has an encounter with Jesus they are forced to take a serious look at their spiritual life.

Most people are not threatened when we talk about religion but they start to get a little uncomfortable when someone inquires about their relationship with The Lord.

In verse 21 the woman said; ***"I know that messiah is coming. When He comes He will explain everything to us."***

Then in verse 26 Jesus reveals His identity to the woman.

***"I who speak to you I am He"***

Notice the progression; First the woman saw Jesus a Jewish man. (Verse 9)

Then she saw Jesus as a miracle worker. (Verse 12)

Next she saw Jesus as a prophet. (Verse 19)

Then in verse 26 Jesus plainly told her He was The Messiah.

In verse 28 we read that the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said; ***"Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. "Could this be The Christ?"***

Verse 39 tells us that this woman's simple testimony; ***"Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. "Could this be The Christ?"*** was enough to cause many of the Samaritans in Sychar to believe in Jesus.

Then in verse 40 we are told that after the people of Sychar came to see Jesus they urged Jesus to stay with them, and Jesus stayed with them for two days.

***“And because of Jesus words many more people became believers.”*** (Verse 41)

They said to the woman, ***“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is The Savior of the World.”***

This account is the largest number of people believing in Jesus as Savior of The World recorded in The Gospel According to John.

And it all began when a woman with a questionable character simply telling the people around her; ***“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. “Could this be The Christ?”***

In that day respectful Jewish men did not talk to a woman alone in public.

Neither did they talk to people who they considered sinners.

Jesus not only did Jesus talk to a woman alone but this was a woman of questionable character. In that time and culture, the women went to the town well early in the morning and in the evening.

Apparently this woman was shunned and the respectful women in Sychar did not want to be seen with her.

But Jesus treated this woman like a person.

Jesus used this opportunity to tell her the thing that was causing ostracism from her neighbors and loneliness was she had sought love and intimacy from men instead of following God’s plan for her.

Jesus showed her that only He could give her what she needed; a new beginning and a new spirit.

Think about this; what if Jesus had followed the cultural customs of the day.

Jesus would not have gone through Samaria; Jesus would not have associated with a Samaritan; Jesus would not have talked to a woman alone in public; Jesus would not have spoken to a *“sinful person”*.

If Jesus had followed the cultural customs The Good News of The Gospel would never have spread past Israel.

Remember in Acts 1:8 Jesus said; ***“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

Without this incident of Jesus ministering to this woman in Samaria, the disciples may have stayed Galilee and Judea and would not have spread the Gospel in “ .... ***Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***”

This whole incident was a teaching opportunity for Jesus' disciples as well as for us.

The disciples and each of us must never forget that The Good News of Jesus' is for the whole world, not just the people like us.

It started with Jesus asking a woman for a drink of water and it ended with a town knowing Jesus was The Savior of The World and many people in Sychar making their profession of faith in Jesus as their Savior.

The woman's role in this story was to invite the people in Sychar to come and see.

And when she did The Holy Spirit took over and a large number of people in Sychar accepted Jesus as their Messiah.

The lesson for us is very clear; we must be willing to overcome our prejudices, our bias, and we must risk our reputation to reach out to people with the Gospel.

Jesus never tells us to do something He has not already done.

Also please note that prior to meeting this woman, Jesus sent His disciples into town.

Sometimes our closest friends and even our family can be the biggest hindrances to us seeing God work in our lives and for us doing The Lord's work.

Christians are called to make disciples and discipleship means lovingly sharing your life with those who God wants you to reach.

Our text challenges each of us to ask ourselves; "*when was the last time I invited someone to come and see Jesus*".

If you wait until you have your life in perfect order or you have the answers to all the theological questions hell will freeze over before you invite someone to come and see your Jesus.

If your Christian faith is real you will tell other people about your Jesus.

If you are excited about Mt Paran you will tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers something like this; "*there is a loving caring family atmosphere at Mt Paran and I think you would like our church. Won't you come and see for yourself?*"

This woman's simple testimony; "***come and see***", had a profound effect on the town of Sychar and ultimately on the whole church of Jesus Christ.

And you will never know how The Holy Spirit can use you and your testimony if you do not invite the people around you to come and see your Jesus.

**AMEN**