

JOHN 4:1-19
Sunday Morning December 14, 1986
Rome Georgia
September 1, 2013

Intro from Steven J. Cole:

“If you want to learn something well, study under a master. Whether it’s one of the arts, a trade, law, business, or a sport, if you have the opportunity to study under someone who knows the subject well, don’t pass it up.”

No one was a better master at winning souls for God than Jesus Christ. He came “**to seek and to save that which was lost**” (Luke 19:10).

If we want to learn how to talk with people about the gospel, we can find no better teacher than Jesus. As you read in the gospels of His encounters with lost people, take note of how He did it. **He never used the same approach twice. He always tailored it to the individual.**

If I wanted to extend this series for several more weeks, we could study the differences in Jesus’ witness to the **Pharisee Nicodemus** in John 3 with the **Samaritan woman** in John 4.

The contrasts could not be much greater.

He was a Jew; ----- she was a Samaritan.

He was a man; ----- she was a woman.

He was educated; ----- she probably was not.

He was a leader among his people; ----- she was probably disrespected by her people.

He was morally upright and proud of it; ----- she was immoral and ashamed of it.

He recognized Jesus’ merits and sought Him; ----- she at first had no idea who He was. **Jesus sought her.**

Nicodemus shows that **no matter how religious you may be**, - you still need to come to Jesus for salvation. ----- The woman at the well shows that **no matter how immoral you may be**, the salvation that Jesus offers extends to you.

Before we look at the principles, we need to understand some background. The text falls into three sections:

First, there is the setting for the story (4:1-6);

then, there is the conversation between Jesus and the woman at the well (4:7-26);

finally, we read the results of this encounter:

with the **woman** (4:27-30);

with the **disciples** (4:31-38);

and with the **Samaritans** (4:39-42).

I had to buy a battery for my car the other day. They had 36 Month, 48 month, 60 month etc. I told the man that what I really wanted was one that wasn’t rated by months but that would last a lifetime. If you are about to paint your house with some paint that is guaranteed for 5 years and I tell you I can get you some paint that will do the job once and for all, you would probably go for it. In short, if there is a better way to do things, we are generally open to them. Many books etc. Message for today is: Original Openin.

"HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE."
By JESUS CHRIST as told by John the Apostle.

In the **Dale Carnegie** book it gives several methods that you can use to "win friends" and ultimately, "influence them." The underlying purpose of it is so that you can sell them something. **ONE METHOD IS TO FIND THINGS ON WHICH YOU AGREE, GET ON SOME COMMON GROUND.** Identify a need and meet that need.

This is what Jesus did in essence when he went to Jacob's well. He was getting on **common ground** with this woman. *****JN. 4:1-6*****12 Art thou greater than OUR father Jacob**?

John says that Jesus "had" to pass through Samaria. Samaria was the region between Judea and Galilee, and so in one sense there was a geographic necessity to pass through that area as He headed north. But many strict Jews hated the Samaritans so intensely that they would take the longer route of crossing the Jordan River and avoiding Samaria altogether. So John may want us to see God's providential necessity for Jesus to travel through this region. His encounter with this woman, although seemingly coincidental, had been ordained from the foundation of the world. So in that sense, Jesus had a divine appointment in Samaria.

The village of Sychar was located about 30 miles north of Jerusalem, at the base of Mount Gerazim, the "holy mountain" for the Samaritans. . . . Samaritan history goes back to the time of the Assyrian victory over the northern kingdom of Israel (722 B.C.). The Assyrian king deported most of the Jews, but left a few in the land. He repopulated the area with foreigners, who intermarried with the Jews. Later, these settlers mixed their own pagan beliefs with the Jewish understanding of God. So they were a mixed race that held to a mixed religion. They only accepted the first five books of Moses as Scripture, and modified those books in many places.

The hatred between the Samaritans and the Jews flared when the Samaritans opposed Ezra's and Nehemiah's attempts to reestablish the true worship of God in the land after the return of the southern tribes from Babylon. The break was cemented when the Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerazim, rejecting Jerusalem as the place of worship.

It was Jacob's well. It had yielded up life giving water for a thousand years..... It is to this well that the Savior Himself comes to when in His body of flesh He was experiencing the weariness that comes from physical exertion. He knew that here, His thirst might be slaked.

But, he also tells of a number of other things which we can do that will help us. One that I found interesting was that he **SUGGESTS GETTING SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.** This does something to the heart of a human when they feel that they are needed and can minister to you. It will serve as a foundation on which you can build. Jesus did this with the woman at the well. "**Give me to drink.**" ****7-9*****

"When He said to the woman at the well "give me to drink" she must have sensed in the tone of His voice, His willingness to let her serve Him, a pure kind of ennobling love she had never known before. His approach was TACTFUL, TRUTHFUL AND CARING." *D.B. Oct. 16, 79.*

Likewise, we can often open more doors of evangelism by allowing people to do something for us than we can by always being the one who thinks that we are the only one with something to offer in a relationship.

DB 9-28-78. "Good soul winners must be as "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Often well-meaning uninstructed folks drive sinners away by their ZEAL because it is without knowledge. Jesus never did this. He was always tactful. In one instance He **satisfied the physical hunger of the multitude before He preached about the Bread of Life.** In today's scripture he asked the woman of Samaria for a drink before He told her of the living water. Someone has defined tact as "dealing with others as we would have them deal with us." The word comes from the Latin term TACTUS and means "TO TOUCH." We should seek to touch the hearts of people, not knock them down with a club!..... Zeal alone is not enough. To win souls, we should use the head as well as the heart.

A **young man once bragged** to me about his father who was a Pastor. He said that he had had **13 churches in as many years.** His explanation was that his dad preached so hard and uncompromisingly that folks **couldn't take the preaching for long before they would run him off.** He was proud of this record and felt that it was a **badge of suffering for righteousness.** I have always felt like it was a real lack of tact!

"A **Barber** attended a meeting one night where the speaker stressed the need to witness for Christ. The man felt convicted, so he determined he would speak to the first person who came into his shop.

The next morning after he had seated the customer and tucked the apron around his neck, the barber began to strop his razor vigorously. Then, testing the edge, he turned to the man in the chair and asked, "Friend are you ready to die and meet God?" The man looked at the razor and fled out the door-- apron and all. **The barber had Zeal, but not according to knowledge.**

WHEN WE OPERATE TACTFULLY WE WILL BE ABLE TO REVEAL TO OTHERS A NEED THAT THEY HAVE AND THEN SHOW THEM HOW THIS NEED MAY BE SUPPLIED.

By revealing a need in His life Jesus opens the door to reveal a need in the life of the Samaritan woman. ***10-15***

Once you have **IDENTIFIED A NEED** in an individual's life you then show them how you can **MEET THAT NEED.**

I.D. of the need =***** 16-19*****

MEETING the need = v. 14

Joh 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

4:16 There is an abrupt change in the conversation here. She had just asked for the water, and the Lord Jesus told her to **go** and **call** her **husband**. **Why? Before this woman could be saved, she must acknowledge herself a sinner.** She must come to Christ in true repentance, confessing her guilt and shame. The Lord Jesus knew all about the sinful life she had lived, and He was going to lead her, step by step, to see it for herself.

Only those who know themselves to be lost can be saved. All men are lost, but not all are willing to admit it. In seeking to win people for Christ, we must never avoid the sin question. They must be brought face to face with the fact that they are dead in trespasses and sins, need a Savior, cannot save themselves, that Jesus is the Savior they need, and, He will save them if they repent of their sin and trust in Him." BBC

We must first show people their need for a savior. The futility of their current endeavors and the fulfillment that can be theirs in Christ. TACT is necessary.

Jesus was infinitely tactful. *****16*****
*****14*****

WHAT WAS THE WATER THAT CHRIST OFFERED THE WOMAN?

Water, 3/4 of the earth is covered with it. Its properties of CLEANSING and REFRESHMENT are universally known. There are none on the face of the earth who do not know and appreciate the life giving properties of it. How appropriate it is to be used in the scriptures as a type.

Chafer VI. p. 50-51. "**Water is used in the scriptures as:**
a **type of JUDGEMENT** (flood, Red Sea, Matt.. 7:25 floods that destroyed improperly built house. etc.)

The **WORD OF GOD** (John 3:5 Titus 3:5 | John 5:6 & 8 :

AND AS OUR PASSAGE THIS MORNING INDICATES, **WATER IS ALSO USED TO DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

"As water is essential for CLEANSING, SATISFYING, REVIVING & REFRESHING, So also the Holy Spirit is VITAL to the child of God.

1. The Spirit applies the blood of Christ for all **cleansing**.
 - a. The cleansing aspect is typified by the bathing of the priests in connection with their induction into priestly office. They were then wholly

once and for all bathed by the high priest (cf. Ex. 29:4; Lev. 8:6), Which bathing prefigures the once -for - all washing of regeneration wrought for the believer-priest upon his entrance into both the saved estate and his service for God as a priest. So, also, there is a constant cleansing for the Christian in his walk which is anticipated in type by the cleansing provided by the sacrifice and ashes of the Red Heifer (Numbers 19:2 ff.) The N.T. anti-type is declared in I Jn. 1:9 "...CLEANSES..."

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

b. (Cf. Eph. 5:26)..."

... **Eph 5:25.** Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, **Eph 5:26**

2. The Spirit dwells within.

"As for the H.S. within, Christ said to the woman of Samaria "...***** Jn. 4:14. The HS indwelling the believer is a reality and HIS presence a measureless blessing, in all of which He is ever active. Like an artesian well, He is 'springing up' unto everlasting life. ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT ONLY **GAINED AND ATTAINED** by the operation of the HS, but it is **MAINTAINED** -- as are all of it's manifestations -- by the Spirit.

3. The Spirit's manifestations flow out."

" with reference to the Spirit flowing out, the promise by Christ as recorded in **Jn. 7:37-39** is central. There it is written:

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

Joh 7:38 He that **believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

Joh 7:39 (**But this spake he of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Thot: DB Ap. 29/73. "Because salvation refreshes the soul, the woman AT the well became the woman WITH the well!"

"All men have an insatiable thirst for something. They know not what - which drives them on to worldly pleasures and material things in a vain attempt to find satisfaction. Jesus knew that the woman at the well was such a needy soul-thirsty individual. She had tried the paths of sin and found them unrewarding.... Not realizing what their heart

truly craves is God, men go on trying to quench the crying need of their souls by indulging in strong drink, partaking of the transient pleasures of lust, or seeking temporary relief from their feelings of guilt in the dream world of narcotics. But partake as much as they will of the brackish waters of sin, they are never satisfied, **but must go back again and again to refill the "water-pot" of their carnal cravings.** *D.B. Mar. 12, 69*

Blaise Pascal 1623-1662. French religious thinker. Math. and Physics.

"There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." Read more at http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/b/blaise_pascal.html#OHAM8wva02rbIhlw.99

Here was a woman who had been 5 times to the alter to quench her thirst and was yet thirsty. Perhaps you yourself have gone often to the vapors of this world to seek and quench the thirsting of your soul for the living water only to receive a unsatisfying, fleeting relief which drives you again and again into the cesspool of the lust of the world.

It has never satisfied and never will. "a round world can never fill a triangular heart, only the trinity can do that." **BUT THE LIVING CHRIST STANDS AND MAKES YOU THE SAME OFFER TODAY THAT WAS MADE TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: **REV. 22:17****

"And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst COME. **AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE OF THE RIVER OF LIFE FREELY.**"

BUT CHRISTIAN FRIEND LET ME ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION THIS MORNING **ROMANS 10:14.**

"**HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?**

Are you winning souls and influencing others to follow Jesus? If not, Why Not?

Belief is a wise wager. Granted that faith cannot be proved, what harm will come to you if you gamble on its truth and it proves false? If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation, that He exists. **Blaise Pascal**

Read more at http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/b/blaise_pascal.html#OHAM8wva02rbIhlw.99

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Treasures from the Greek NT, P. 39. *Aionios*. Eternal, everlasting – both Life and Death