



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to John 4:13-14

Title: Christ-like Witnessing

Theme: Following the Lord's Example in Witnessing

Introduction: *There is no greater honor than to be a part God's work, which is telling others about Jesus Christ.*

In John chapter four Jesus was passing through Samaria and when He came to Jacob's well He was tired from his journey and He sat down. (John 4:6) The disciples had gone into Sychar to buy food. (John 4:5,8) The Bible says it was about the sixth hour, which would most likely be around noon.

Jesus used a common physical thirst to cause the lady at the well to enquire about deeper eternal matters. In their discussion He intrigued her with a promise of quenching a natural spiritual thirst that is common to all of mankind, that spiritual thirst which people try to satisfy through giving into the flesh, drinking in the world's views and Satan's lies. Sadly, only a few drink of the living water offered by the Lord.

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that Jesus lays down three simple truths that could help all Christians in their witnessing about Jesus Christ. Jesus made a connection, then drew attention from temporary satisfaction to eternal fulfillment and then on to what true worship is.*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just how can you follow the simple example of Christ with confidence that Jesus is going to use you?*

Transitional Sentence: *The first thing Jesus did was to make a connection. This woman who lived a life of sin came out to get water and He makes a connection with her.*

You have family members, friends and co-workers who are just like this lady who are also bound by sin and you need to be making a connection. Jesus made this connection by being obedient to His father who was sending Him to Galilee. All divine appointments that are set up for you will come about, as you are obedient to the Lord's call upon your life.

Is there someone in your work place that you want to reach for Christ? Is there a neighbor that you want to reach? Is there a family member you have been praying for?

Jesus had a need for water and the lady had a way of getting water from a well that was very deep. The depth is around 75 feet to the water line with a total depth of 135 feet (The New International Dictionary of the Bible; The International Dictionary of the Bible; Pastor Tom Holladay) The point being is that Jesus, being man, had a need that could not be met without her help.

Make a connection with someone who would be shocked that you even speak to them let alone ask them for assistance or show a real interest in them.
(John 4:9)

Here is some history about the Samaritans: Samaria is right about center of Israel. When Israel fell to the Assyrians, Samaria was the place where the very poorest were left behind. They intermarried with other races. They brought in a false priest. They began false worship and they twisted Scripture while rejecting everything in the Old Testament except the first five books of the Bible. (Pastor Tom Halladay; The New International Dictionary of the Bible; 2 Kings 17; The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible; The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia; William Barclay; Matthew Henry Commentary)

According to Josephus (Antig 18.2.2) there was no greater time in history that bitterness was higher between the Jews and Samaritans than at the time Jesus spoke with the woman at Jacob's well. According to the annual customs, during the governorship of Coponius from A.D. 6-9, the temple gates were opened at midnight and some Samaritans had intruded and polluted the Holy place by scattering human bones in the porches. Samaritans were thereafter excluded from the services. They were cursed in the temple. Their food was considered unclean, even as swine's flesh. (The New International Dictionary of the Bible)

Jesus was out among sinners ministering to the sick, the needy; meeting the practical and spiritual needs of all who would accept what God was doing through Him.

In this Biblical account of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman there is an interesting truth found in John 4:4 that the Holy Spirit wants us to grasp today in our efforts to fulfill our part of the Great Commission. It says, "Now He [meaning Jesus] had to go through Samaria." (John 4:4) It is better translated in the King James Bible, as "And He must needs go through Samaria."

"Must needs" (*edei*) in its application in John 4:4 means that it was a necessity, a compulsion and Jesus' destiny to go through Samaria for the sake of His mission. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible; Thru the Bible; Matthew Henry; The Pulpit Commentary) The Greek word "must" (*edei*) is often used in connection with Jesus' missions. (John 3:14; 9:4; 10:16; 12:34; 20:9)

Jesus said this about His part in fulfilling the Great Commission. (John 4:34)

Transitional Sentence: *The second truth the Holy Spirit wants us to catch today is that Jesus drew attention from temporary satisfaction to eternal fulfillment.*

(John 10,13)
 (John 4:12)

An important note to remember is that Jesus pointed the woman's attention to what matters in eternity.

(Ezekiel 36:26-27) (Barnes Notes)

A spring of water welling up to eternal life is a beautiful image for it is like a fountain bubbling up with fresh clean cool water. It is a contrast to a stagnant pool that holds the harmful bacteria, which in this case represents sin. It is in contrast to the deep well that takes hard work to pull up water and then having to carry it home.

It is a spring that never runs dry in hot seasons or freezes over during cold seasons and it is in constant flow in all circumstance of life. Whether foul, fair or in abundance this soul lives on because the very Spirit of God refreshes it. (These ideas came as I read Barnes Notes)

All sinners need a heart change before they can understand the teachings of Christ. (John 4:15) In John chapter four we see that Jesus had to break that barrier that kept her heart from understanding. There is a barrier of sin that keeps sinners from enjoying continued fellowship with the Lord. (John 4:16) Jesus resolves to bring her to her senses for He knows what lies in her heart, just like He knows what is in the heart of all people. Nothing can be hidden from the Lord Jesus Christ. Conviction of sin is the beginning of the great work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. (The Pulpit Commentary; Thru the Bible; Matthew Henry's Commentary)

There is a truth that must be presented to all and that is true Christianity is first the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He is, the second revelation is revelation of oneself. No man can truly see himself as he is until he finds himself in the presence of Christ as He is revealed in the Word of God. Christianity begins with that sense of sin. It begins with the sudden realization that life lived without Him being Savior and Lord will not do. One must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to be aware that he is in great need of the grace and mercy of God.

Transitional Sentence: *The third truth that the Lord wants us to grasp and pass on to others today is to understand what true worship is.*

(John 4:22-24)
 (2 Kings 17:27-28)

Remember the Samaritans rejected all the Old Testament except the first five books of the Bible. Thus they had unsound religion because they had a partial Bible, which caused them to miss true worship to God alone. (William Barclay)

Most of the people you come in contact with are like the Samaritans in a sense that they have a chosen partial knowledge of God's Word. They, like the Samaritans have selective worship. They choose which portion of Scripture they like and simply disregard the rest. No one can worship in spirit and truth without an honest heart seeking for God's will through the whole council of the written Word. This does not mean that a worshiper has to know all of God's Word, but he must have a heart desire to be seeking the Lord's will and a willingness to live out what has already been revealed to him.

True worship is that of the spirit, which means that the worshiper must deal honestly and openly with the Lord. The true worshiper is fully dependant upon God's Holy Spirit for strength and assistance, laying his heart under the influence and operation of the Spirit of Christ. He devotes his spirit, mind, body and will to service to Jesus Christ.

It is a necessity that those who want to witness as Jesus did be pointing out the fact that the worshiper that the Lord is looking for are those who approach God through the lordship of Christ with a deep heartfelt affection to have a relationship with God, Jesus Christ and fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

William Barclay wrote: "The true worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship, and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy. Worship does not even mean to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible."

In Closing: *Jesus sets three foundational truths to genuine witnessing.* 1.) You must be out seeking to make a connection with the lost as the Lord leads. 2.) Ask the Lord to make a way for you to draw sinner's attention away from that which is temporary to that which is eternal and 3.) Point people who have a false understanding about God to what true worship is for it is. It is the only way they can find direction in their lives. (Romans 12:1-2)

Howard G. Hendricks: Jack Cooper in Dallas, Texas (eye chart)

You do not need to be a skilled eye surgeon to be used of God, just simply use what you have and He will make the way for you to witness for Jesus.

Let us pray!