

Power of Words: Part 4

Words That Heal and Build

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John 4:4–9 NLT

4 He had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. 9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus had just left Judea and was on His way back to Galilee but in His journey He stopped in a Samaritan town. Within the vicinity of this town Jesus stopped at Jacob's well. There He encountered a Samaritan woman and politely asked for her to fix Him some water.

The very first thing that I want to point out that so many may overlook is that Jesus was tired from His journey. And we miss this because we always view the spiritual part of Jesus and sometimes forget that He was human as well. All of us remember what it's like after a long hard day of work or even the exhaustion of traveling. And if we are honest with ourselves we can become grumpy in our actions and words. But because Jesus was submitted to the work of the Father, He remained cognate of who He represented with every word and action. And this was visible in the conversation that Jesus started with the Samaritan woman.

Jesus asked for a drink of water. and if we can notice the response of the woman that she was surprised. The Jews wouldn't have anything to do with the Samaritans with words or actions. And this threw the woman for a loop. The reason why the Jews and Samaritans despised each other dated back to 722 BC. These Israelites were held captive and relocated and introduced to many other races of people and religion. This in returned caused their lineage and Jewish faith to become tainted. So Samaritans were disassociated with because they were impure and their faith was compromised. They were mongrels or half-breeds. If we could view this from the spiritual aspect of God's heart. You have the Jews that took serious the commandment not to mingle or associate yourselves with foreign nations nor to practice their rituals nor marry their

woman. The terminology of Jew in this instance is who who keeps themselves pure by obey the commandments of God. The ones who walk upright and take serious the call to be Holy as He is Holy. On the other hand you have the terminology of the Samaritan that represents those who faith has become tainted with man-made teachings and that mingle themselves with the ways and costumes of this world.

So what Jesus was asking the woman spiritually... was to serve Him. Again, I remind you that Jesus was always using the physical to highlight the spiritual. Jesus wasn't asking for something that was impossible. He only desired that she would hear His plea to serve despite who she was. Notice the politeness that Jesus spoke with regardless of His tiredness.

John 4:10–12 NLT

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." 11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Once Jesus had initiated the conversation which means He had established communication and went beyond the barriers that had been set by both races. He then spoke with such compassion and ensured her that if she had really knew what God has in store for her and His position of the redemptive plan she would ask Him to serve her. Jesus flipped the script that defied either one of their cultures. He originally asked her to serve but conveyed that ultimately that it was Him doing the serving. What she could offer in the physical was obedience but what He could offer was eternal life. A water that would satisfy every urge of the physical.

Her tainted view of God was of the physical and she understood with a physical mindset. Again her sarcasm kept her understanding shallow. She based the water that Jesus offered from the stance that He had nothing to draw with and that the well was very deep, meaning that what He had to offer was impossible. She even commented that how can your water be better than what is physical.

Each sarcastic answer and comment showed the tainting of her perspective. And yet we experience people of this magnitude often. They limit God by what they can see. They understand God by what man has taught them. They perceive God as one-sided and miss the true nature of God's heart.

John 4:13–15 NLT

13 Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” 15 “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Jesus never succumb to her view and instead continued to speak words that would build and heal who she was. He shifted the understanding that the water He gives comes from within. It is eternal and everlasting. And immediately she desires the very thing that could fulfill her. And although she still tried to comprehend that she will never lack again, Jesus wasn’t done with His words of Healing and Building her into the person that God had called her to be.

John 4:16–18 NLT

16 “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. 17 “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

She had spent all of her adult life looking for fulfillment. She had been married five times and shacking up with another man looking for something that would satisfy her within. This is no different than the who we use to be and who the world continues to be. Running from one relationship to another looking for satisfaction but yet each relation seems to lead to the same thing. Moving from one drug to the next trying to get higher than the previous one. We are all looking for that something that gives what we are craving and Jesus declared that the water He gives will satisfy every need. We need only to drink of it. But when our view and faith is tainted by the customs of this world it is hard to understand what Jesus is really offering us.

John 4:19–20 NLT

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”

Notice how the woman changed the conversation. How often have we experience that with individuals that are spiritual Samaritans? They want to shift the heat from what they are doing wrong and how it should be done. We have all responded in this same manner. We get called out for doing something incorrectly and our response is...well, how do you do it then since you know so much. But unlike us most of the time, Jesus is able to keep His cool. He knows that words have the power to heal and build. And this was exactly what He was doing. Healing doesn't take place all of a sudden and neither does building up. There is a process to this taking place. Strategy and timing is key to healing wounds, pass hurts, lies, manipulation, and deception.

John 4:21–24 NLT

21 Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Jesus made it obvious to her that her understanding of worship had been misconstrued. Worship was defined as the place of the temple and many have still confused that with worship today. Church or the assembling of the saints is not worship. A slow song is not worship either. What did Abraham say when he was taking Issac up to Mt Moriah.

Genesis 22:4–5 NLT

4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

So what was Abraham going to do? Everything that God told him to do. He was going to obey! Worship is obedience.

John 4:25–30 NLT

25 The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” 27 Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” 28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I

ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

All throughout Jesus kept the same composure. He didn't take offense from the sarcasm nor did He back down from her misinterpretation of what He was saying. He purposed the message to bring healing to a woman that was broken and looking for fulfillment in other things. He built her up by the words He spoke. He fulfilled what God had sent Him to do and in return the multitude of people were touched by His words. If we reach the one or the two that God assigns us to then God will surely use them to tell others and act in accordance to what they witness.

John 4:31–34 NLT

31 Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But Jesus replied, "I have a kind of food you know nothing about." 33 "Did someone bring him food while we were gone?" the disciples asked each other. 34 Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.

Jesus delighted from doing the work of the Father. But His fulfillment was from completing it. Has God called you to individuals that you have left by the wayside because you don't feel like you are able to minister to them? How will you start and continue your conversation moving forward?

Let me pray with you!