



What We See in the Life of an Unlikely Evangelist John 4:1-42

We see here the picture of evangelism at its finest.

Verses 27-30, 38:

Text Message:

- Evangelism at its finest is evangelism through invitation!
- Notice she did not pressure people, argue with them, push them to pray something before they were ready, etc.

- She had never been to seminary, evangelism classes, or seminars. She had never been instructed in the “sinner’s prayer,” nor did she repeat anything after Jesus.
- What she had was a personal encounter with Jesus!
- There is a fascinating comparison between this outside, outcast Samaritan woman and the disciples:

The disciples went to town to buy food, the woman thirsted for Living Water (Verses 8, 15).

The disciples marveled at Jesus speaking to the woman, the woman marveled at Jesus (Verses 27-29).

The disciples were silent, the woman invited others to see Jesus (Verses 27-29).

The disciples came back to Jesus by themselves, the woman came back with others (Verses 27, 30).

The disciples were sent to reap a spiritual harvest, the woman reaped a spiritual harvest (Verses 38-39).

We see here the power of a personal testimony.

Verses 39-42:

Text Message:

- “Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him ***because of the woman’s testimony...***”
Verse 39, emphasis mine
- And because of her telling her testimony, “many” believed and then “many more” (Verses 39, 41).
- A testimony is a “What Jesus has done in my life” story.
- People who have a testimony have met Jesus!
- *What is your testimony?*
 - 1) What was your life like before Jesus?
 - 2) How did you encounter Jesus?
 - 3) What difference has Christ made in your life?

- *You never know when someone else needs to hear this!*

We see here the principle of what can happen when Christ holds our future.

Verses 16-18:

Text Message:

- Our past can't hold us when Christ holds our future!
- Like Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman has often been given a bad rap because she had five husbands.
- However, women in the ancient world didn't have the power to divorce their husbands! The most common term for divorce in Hebrew literally meant, "the sending away of a wife," and we never read of "the sending away of a husband."
- A husband would place the bill of divorcement in the hand of his wife, and she would be forced to leave the premises!

Source: International Standard Bible Encyclopedia Online

- *Can you imagine how humiliating this was for her **five times**?*
- Yet her past didn't hold her because Christ held her future.
- In the Eastern tradition, she has been named *Photine* ("Luminous One") and because of her continued evangelistic influence, was given the honorific title, "Equal to the apostles."
- Photine is said to have been tortured and then thrown in a dry well under the Emperor Nero, where she died.

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