

GOING OUT OF OUR WAY

LESSONS FROM THE
WOMAN AT THE WELL

Part 3: Engage the Meaningful Conversation

John 4:10-15

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

John 4:10-15

¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

The Gift of God: Living Water (Jn. 4:10)

- Living water in this time would be evidenced by a stream of water or a flowing river as opposed to a stagnant pool of water.
- In the Old Testament the use of the term living water was used figuratively to reference divine activity (cf. Jer. 2:13; Zech. 14:8; Isa. 12:3; 44:3; 55:1)

The Gift of God: Living Water (Jn. 4:10)

- The use of living water as a figure of salvation which Christ alone gives:
 - Water is a gift from God
 - Water is indispensable to man
 - Water meets a universal need
 - Water is that which first comes down from heaven
 - Water is that which refreshes and satisfies
 - Water is something of which we never tire

John 4:11-12

¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

The Misunderstanding of Language (vv. 11-12)

- Previous misunderstanding of the language Christ used in John's gospel (Jn. 2:19-21; 3:3-10; see also John 4:15)
- A continued blindness to the glory of God before her and an occupation with material things characterize the state of the Samaritan woman at this point in time

John 4:13-14

¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:13-14

- A lack of satisfaction (v. 13; cf. Jer. 2:13)
- A salvation that is open to all (v. 14; 3:16; 6:37; 2 Peter 3:9)
- The divine origin of salvation (“I will give”); “welling up” is its great abundance; “eternal life” is its endless duration!


John 4:15

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

- See 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
- Again, the misunderstanding of the woman as to what Jesus had offered is seen. She thought more of expedience, that eternity, thus moving Jesus to a word of conviction (v. 16)

Directed Conversation: Some Thoughts and Suggestions

- Start with some “small talk.”
- Listen for felt needs
- Feel the freedom to share your own “back story.”
- Bring up contemporary events
- Be concerned about developing relationship, not just “closing the deal.”
- Don't condemn, avoid “religious” statements and moral arguments



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