

OHC Havelock

Going Out W/ The Gospel

- So great to be w/ you all & we are so excited about the future
- I want to talk about **why we do these types of things**: mission
- If you're just joining us & are checking out Christianity- I'm hoping you'll see Jesus as so amazing today
- If you're part of this church, I hope you'll be reminded of why Jesus is so amazing & helped on how to play your part
- So often, we delegate mission to others or organizations
- Or we make it too complicated...I hope to demystify it & help you see why it should be the natural response to meeting Jesus
- **To do all this, we're going to look at one woman's story...**

John 4:4-42- "And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, **near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there**; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (**For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.**) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings w/ Samaritans.) **Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, & who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, & he would have given you living water."** The woman said to him, **"Sir, you have nothing to draw water w/, & the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob?** He gave us the well & drank from it himself, as did his sons & his livestock." Jesus said to her, **"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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."** 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." Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, & come here."** The woman answered him, "I have no husband." **Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, & the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."** The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you

say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, & is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, & those who worship him must worship in spirit & truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking w/ a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking w/ her?" So the woman left her water jar & went away into town & said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town & were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me & to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, & see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages & gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower & reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows & another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, & you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay w/ them, & he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, & we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

- This is one of my favorite stories of someone meeting Jesus
- I think it can be SO HELPFUL for those of us who already know Jesus to understand this thing of "going out w/ the gospel"
- Before we just dive in, let's have a look at who she is...

1. She Had A Sad & Shameful Story

- 5 husbands...w/ someone right now who's not her husband
- What does that make you think straight away? No, honestly
- **She's drama! She's broken! High-maintenance. Damaged goods**
- What about the toll it would take on her emotions to be married & divorced 5 times...I bet her family quit coming on 2 or 3
- She wasn't having bridesmaids by round 5
- **By now she wasn't even bothering getting married anymore**
- Now, she's just living w/ someone...she's given up on marriage.
- Clearly there's something wrong w/ her she must've thought
- She is either so screwed up that no one can stand to be w/ her for long...or she can't pick a good man to save her life...so sad
- **Here's a life she never dreamed of as a little girl**
- Here's a life full of shame & pain & regrets...
- It's unique in a way...& it's not in so many other ways...
- **Don't we all have that kind of story?**
- **Don't we all walk w/ a limp (Me RIGHT NOW)**
- Everyone asks me all the time, "How's the knee?"
- B/c I'm limping...**so what do I do, try to not limp**
- This isn't rocket science...it's the natural human response
- But, how many of us have done the same w/ "internal limps"
- **We are hurting, injured from things we've done or things done to us...we are limping, in pain & in need of healing...but we HIDE!**
- She was limping, but she was hiding...hurting, but just going through the motions...

2. She Knew About Good Advice & Had Some Religion

- "Jews don't talk to Samaritans" you know better
- This is an example of the kind of cultural religious rules that doesn't make sense to us, but was part of their system
- Keeping the rules...not something you'd think she cared about
- But, she was likely always trying to be a better person
- She also knew some Bible verses- just enough to confuse her
- **Sadness & shame mixed w/ morality & a confused religious approach to life...not a great recipe but one many of us know**
- **She knew there was a God, but wasn't sure what He was like**
- **So, she just got after it, day after day, trying harder to do better, no doubt, that's what she was doing**
- May have even been thinking that going down to the well
- "AD 31 is my year...I'm not going to hook up w/...I got this..."
- **But, that day something happened she couldn't have imagined**

- That day, while going through the motions, hiding her hurts & trying to just be a better person, she met Jesus...

3. She Met Jesus & He Was More Than She Could've Imagined

- Starts off w/ Jesus just asking for some water
- **Maybe that's all Jesus cares about.** It's noon. It's hot. He's not from this town. He just needs something to drink & she's the only one around w/ something to drink...But Jesus says...
- **VS. 10- "...If you knew the gift of God, & who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, & he would have given you living water."**
- Rightly **totally confused**, probably thinking he's crazy or suffering from some kind of heat exhaustion, she says...
- **VS. 11-12- "Sir, you have nothing to draw water w/, & the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well & drank from it himself, as did his sons & his livestock."**
- What's happening here? **She sounds a little offended.**
- Hey, you don't even have a bucket & I do
- Hey, this is from Jacob...you know JACOB...he drank from this well himself & now I get to drink from it...w/ MY BUCKET
- So, you do you think you're greater than JABOB (Narrator: He was, in fact greater than Jacob in every way...)
- **(FYI- When you first meet Jesus, he comes across offensive! You & I, like her start defending what we have & why it's good. We start pointing at Jesus & saying, "What makes you so special")**
- So, does Jesus say, "Sorry...didn't mean to offend you...I'm just thirsty & cranky...I'll take whatever you got"
- **VS. 13- "Everyone who drinks from this well will be thirsty again"**
- Rude! Right☺ I mean, just drink the water & be happy Jesus
- **Was Jesus critiquing her water supply? No! He was getting at the thirst behind the thirst...the hidden thirst no one saw but her!**
- Jesus knows what she's been trying hasn't been working
- She has run after relationship after relationship...
- She's looked for love in all the wrong places
- Here she is, going through the motions, trying to keep the rules, **but she's dying on the inside, thirsty & getting sicker!**
- So Jesus says, "I have some water that is better than this water"
- **VS. 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."**

- She's still not getting it...thinks Jesus may be some amazing water man who has some magical H2O
- So, Jesus presses her & says, "Go get your husband"
- RIGHT THEN, she must have felt waves & waves of shame
- Here this Jew, who culturally is disgusted by me, has been willing to talk to me & give me some magical water, but NOW, once he hears that I...that I...that I am broken...that I'm a sinner...that I'm so messed up...He'll surely be done w/ me
- VS. 17a- "The woman answered him, "I have no husband."
- We're not told how long it took her to say that
- Maybe it was right away, I don't want to read in too much
- But, if it were you or I, how long would it have taken?
- I would've thought long & hard of how to say that
- In fact, she finds a way to say it that doesn't sound so bad
- "Hey, if I say this...he won't know that I'm limping"
- So, how does this Jew respond? Did it work...does he know?
- VS. 17b-18- "Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, & the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."
- Jesus says, well, that's a factual statement, but it doesn't really get at what's really going on in your life does it?
- But, I KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE!
- Her response is a little confusing...lets not talk about me & my string of bad decisions & brokenness...let's talk about if we should worship on this mountain or that mountain
- She brings up some of the Bible verses she doesn't understand
- Jesus says, Believe me...you worship what you do not know...but the time is now here...the Father is seeking true worshippers...
- Still, she's not getting this totally...so she says...
- VS. 25- "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."
- There's a savior who's supposed to come...God's Savior King...& when he comes, he will tell us all things...
- She had heard of this, but she wouldn't have believed he would ever come to her...to her well...& if he did, there were much more respectable people he would certainly be meeting w/
- She talks about this future that one day will hopefully happen
- How many of us have some kind of spiritual hopes that we aren't really sure about but think may happen some day...

- Does Jesus say, “Best of luck to you...God bless”
- VS. 26- “Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”
- **Doesn’t your heart want to burst hearing what Jesus says!**
- Jesus what was really going on in her life
- He didn’t wash over her sin (called another woman to leave that life of sin) but he didn’t make that the main message
- **He called her to believe in Him! To be truly satisfied. To worship Him, the Messiah, the Savior who came to meet her...**
- **What did she say? This is THE MOMENT...**

VS. 27-28a- “**Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking w/ a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking w/ her?” So the woman left her water jar & went away into town...**”

- WHAT! “Just then...” What are they thinking, “Jesus isn’t keeping the rules! He’s talking w/ a woman!”
- **Whatever it was, this powerful moment is broken up just at the moment where we are about to find out how she’ll respond**
- **Will she run away & hide? Will she believe? EVEN BETTER...**

VS. 28-30- “So the woman left her water jar & went away into town & said to the people, “**Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.** Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the town & **were coming to him.**”

4. She Instantly Ran To Tell Her Friends About Jesus

- RIGHT AWAY she was quick to tell her story of meeting Jesus
- **Can you imagine...no longer limping in silence, hiding her story behind rule keeping & religious questions**
- Now she says, “He told me all that I ever did!”
- Now, that’s normally not something that would be good
- Would you want to meet someone who knew EVERYTHING?
- Probably not right? So, what else is going on here?
- **She’s met someone who didn’t just know everything, BUT also was the Christ! He was the Savior of the World!**
- Such was the compelling nature of her proclamation that she’d met a man who knew everything about her that it led to the whole town leaving what they were doing to meet Jesus!
- **A whole town of others who all also had stories. Maybe different stories to her, but stories nonetheless that were shameful**
- Why would they all walk away from everything to meet him? B/c **they needed whatever she had found**

- There was visibly & audibly something different about her
- They were likely aware of her or used to her...they probably knew about the men...maybe not all of them...but some...
- Maybe they would've thought nothing she could do or say would've surprised them, "she's an interesting one"
- But, this was the first time she'd done anything like this
- It started off like they might have expected, "Come meet a man I met" but this man wasn't like any other man she'd met
- This was the first time she'd met a man who didn't want to take from her, use her, abuse her...he wanted to heal her...
- Now, what I'd love to help us all see today who are followers is this- why is it that this woman acted so different from the disciples? She is out telling everyone about Jesus...they keep missing the whole point...while the town is coming...

VS. 31-33- "Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

5. Disciples Are Often Clueless About The Mission Of Jesus

- Why is she the example we should follow in this story?
- It seems like the longer you follow Jesus the more clueless you can become...the more you can take Jesus for granted...
- So, the whole story starts w/ them going to get some groceries (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food)
- Then they come back after this AMAZING MOMENT & start wondering why Jesus is talking to a woman
- Then they start telling Jesus he needs to eat their groceries
- Then they wonder who beat them to the punch
- Probably a little perturbed. "So we went all the way to town & you don't even want to eat the food we got!" ☺
- What were the disciples missing? And, by that, of course I mean, "What are we as disciples of Jesus missing?" Because, let's be honest, we are JUST LIKE THEM ALL THE TIME!
- Mission Is All Around Us All The Time
- "Jesus, if you'd told us to go look for hurting people...we didn't know this was *that kind of trip!*"
- We are good if we're told...but it's not always like that!
- In fact some of the most amazing encounters w/ Jesus are totally unplanned! What about the Good Samaritan!

- They were missing that there were planned moments of mission & then there are countless everyday unplanned moments...
- **What We Need Most Is To Be On God's Mission**
- How much of life revolves around food & work...
- VS. 34- "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, to accomplish his work" THIS IS THE BEST FOOD & THE BEST WORK!
- Followers of Jesus often fail to prioritize the mission
- They don't see themselves as "sent" to "accomplish"
- John 20:21b- "As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you"
- Jesus said it was this "food" they didn't know about...
- I bet you are planning on eating later today☺
- I bet you'll even plan to eat tomorrow
- Why? b/c you & I love food & we know we "need food"
- Jesus says, like that, "My food is to do THIS!"
- WHAT IF you & I planned to go make much of Jesus, telling our stories of meeting Jesus & holding out the hope of who He is to people all around us LIKE we planned on eating food?
- **We Should Be Quick To Tell Our Stories Of Meeting Jesus**
- She didn't need a bunch of Bible verses to convince her into telling her story, she didn't need sad statistics about the condition of the lives of the people in town...
- She met Jesus. He was incredible. She wanted to tell everyone
- It was good news that needed to get out!
- Her story wasn't just her story- it was God glorifying
- So many treat Jesus saving them like it's a visit to an embarrassing clinic...gotta be so private about it
- It's personal, but it's never meant to be private!
- Just like w/ her, it is supposed to go VIRAL!
- So, if that was enough for her, why isn't it enough for us?
- For many who go to church...good advice, not good news
- That leads to an entirely different message- one that makes us look like the hero, not Jesus...but that's not the goal...
- VS. 39-42- "Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay w/ them, & he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, & we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

6. The Goal Is That People Are Impressed By Jesus; Not Us

- When you follow Good Advice, people are rightly impressed
- When you proclaim Good News, they are thankful, but they are drawn to the News that changed your life...
- What do we see here at the end, “Now we have seen ourselves!”
- What we don’t want is people thinking we are amazing
- We want our friends to think that Jesus is amazing
- Ask yourself, are people left impressed by you or drawn to him
- What if all your friends...what if this whole town...next town...
- That’s our heart as a church- to fill ENC w/ the gospel!
- But how does that happen? Lots of ways, but the best way is this way- the word of mouth way- “come meet a man who...”
- This is what it looks like to “go out w/ the gospel”
- It’s as simple as that- go tell people how Jesus changed you

RESPONSE:

○ Here & Not Yet A Christian

- Have you met this man Jesus? That’s what you need the most
- I know that you’ve probably got stuff you want to hide- he knows
- I know you’ve probably got some confused religious thoughts- all of that get’s cleared up when we see that He’s the Savior
- Maybe, like her, you weren’t initially impressed...offended...
- All of her past & all of her questions were answered in Him
- Jesus didn’t just come to her- he’s coming to you right now
- “If you knew the gift of God & who it is that is saying...you would have...” Don’t take him for granted. Believe in him...

○ Here & Already A Christian

- What would it look like for this to be as normal & as necessary for you as eating food? What would it take?
- Remembering his worth in a world full of worthless substitutes
- Remembering the good news of what he’s done for you in a world drowning in good advice
- Remembering that everyone around you is there b/c He put them there & you’re there b/c he put you there...to show them Him!
- So, let’s come & remember together by taking Communion...

○ COMMUNION:

- “Are you greater than our father Jacob?”
- Jesus didn’t directly answer this, but would eventually...
- Jacob gave you a well that leaves you thirsty & coming back again & again. I’ll give you my very life...my blood will be spilled

to satisfy you...my body broken to feed you...Yes, yes, in fact I am better than Jacob...Abraham....Moses...David...anyone else

- I'm also better than that bucket of yours that you cling to so tightly to quench your momentary thirst
- Come & eat & drink in honor of Jesus who truly satisfies our souls, Jesus who replaced our efforts w/ his saving work for us
- Giving- we give because he has given. Because he calls us to put him first. Because this mission of his is so big...