

Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for all you've done for us. We rejoice in the fact that we have eternal life and that through your son and by trusting in Him, we can know you and spend eternity with you. We're going to trust that your spirit will teach us and give us ears to hear what you have to say to us. For your honor and glory in Jesus name, amen.

Christ is with a woman at the well. He's there in his humanity, he was thirsty, and he was tired. It's interesting because he "had" to go through Samaria which was something a Jew didn't normally do. He's also been conversing with a woman which Jewish Rabbis weren't supposed to do.

John 4:19-23 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. (20) Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." (21) Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

I want to talk about world politics for a moment. The world is generally antisemitic, and it will get worse because salvation is of the Jews. Antisemitism is satanically inspired. Satan hates the Jews because the world's only hope comes from the Jews through Jesus Christ. Why would Hitler pick on them? Why would he exterminate 6 million of them? The reason is because Hitler's cheerleader was Satan himself. Christ came to be a Jew by birth, which was his choice. He could have been born into any family he wished to, but he chose a Jewish family. Salvation is for all of us, but it first came to the Jews. The book of Matthew was written to the Jews, to the religious. Some of the stories in Matthew are hard to understand, unless you know that it was written to the Jew. For example, see the following scriptures:

Matthew 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. (6) Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

We wouldn't say that today, because we live in the age of grace when God's word is for everyone. But in that day, Christ told His disciples only to go to the Jews.

Matthew 15:21-24 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. (22) A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." (23) Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." (24) He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

If you didn't know that the book of Matthew was written to the Jews, that seems cruel. But then it gets even worse.

Matthew 15:25-26 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. (26) He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

This is no pet lapdog that he's talking about. Dogs weren't held in very high esteem by the Jews. In other words, Jesus was saying "I'm not I'm supposed to be giving you this stuff. You're a Gentile."

Matthew 15:27-28 "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (28) Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Isn't that neat? Even though Jesus first came to the Jew, and she was a Gentile, Jesus knew that he would save anyone who came to him. consequently, he says to her, you have tremendous faith and healed her daughter.

Most Jews rejected Jesus. Paul the Apostle talks about this very scenario in this passage in Romans:

Romans 11:11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

In other words, because the Jews turned down the opportunity to have a relationship with Christ, it has come to us. (Aren't you glad they turned it down? I am.) There's something very interesting here. If the Jew's transgression means riches for the gentiles now, how much greater will their riches be when the Jews finally believe in Jesus Christ?

Romans 11:15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

At some point in time the Jews are going to receive Jesus Christ. When they do, this world is going to be completely transformed. The curse that God put on this will be removed, the deserts are going to bloom, blackberries will not have thorns, and they're not going to be covered with June bugs! I'm looking so forward to that point in time!

John 4:23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

God is Spirit, so his worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth. When you get to heaven, you're not going to see God the Father. You'll see Jesus Christ the Son, and the presence of God the Father. The light and the power that radiates off of his throne is not only going to light up the new Jerusalem and heaven, but also will light up all of creation. I assume that the new Jerusalem will act somewhat as the sun does to the earth today. You're going to know where God is, but you won't be able to see him.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

I hope what I'm going to say is not offensive to some of you. My job as your pastor, is to teach you Bible to help you to grow in grace and the knowledge of God. That's the purpose. That means I am to show you the sheep, and the wolves in sheep's clothing.

There was a fortuitous thing that happened this week and in retrospect I realized that God was right in the middle of it. I took Friday off and was getting my boat together to go fishing. Two well-dressed young men came up to me, and I just kept working. I knew immediately that they were from the Church of Latter-Day Saints because they had badges on their shirts.

They introduced themselves and I introduced myself, and one of them started the conversation by saying "I don't know if you know anything about the Bible, but there were 12 Apostles in Jesus day, and we believe that there are still 12 apostles today." I said, "Really, where are their names?" He started naming them but I interrupted him and said, "No, not what are their names, but where are their names written?" **He** said, "I don't understand what you mean." I asked, "Have you ever read the Bible?" He said "Yes, I have read it from cover to cover." I Responded by saying "Good, then you know that the names of the 12 apostles are written

on the 12 foundation stones of the New Jerusalem, right?"

Revelation 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I didn't want to have an in-your-face kind of situation, so I said, "You don't mind if I keep working while we talk?" Then I asked, "Where are the names of your apostles written?" He just stood there and finally he said "Well, I've kind of forgotten that part." Then he asked, if I had read the Book of Mormon. I told him that I had read part of the book, but not all of it. I asked him, "How do you know that what you believe is true?" He said, "Because I prayed to Jesus and asked him." Then I asked "Which Jesus do you pray to? You know, there's more than one in the Bible." He said, "I don't remember that." I said, "But you read it from cover to cover, right?" He said "Yeah." I said 2 Corinthians talks about more than one Jesus. That was a criticism of the church at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough..

We talked for a while, and then he said, "If you're right, why are there so many different denominations?" I responded "Well if you're right, why are so many different Mormons? He said, "there isn't." I said, "Oh, yes, there are, there are some in Utah who have many wives." He said, "Those are Mormons we are Latter Day Saints." I said, "Where do you come from?" Then the other guy says, "They are an offshoot." I replied, "If you want to know why there's so many churches, it's because people are people, and some of the people are wrong and don't get along. Mormons are the same way. You expect to be God someday, don't you?" He said, "That's our hope." (Mormons believe that a man can turn into God. In fact, they believe Jesus Christ was a man who became God and then became a man again.) I said, "Did you know Adam and Eve heard that same story?"

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (2) The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, (3) but

God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" (4) "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. (5) "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (6) When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

I said, "You believe you're going to be like God, but someday that belief, is going to keep you out of heaven, because you're not believing in the correct Jesus."

At that point they were in a hurry to leave. I tried to get them to stay, but they "had" another appointment. They got into the car and completely left my neighborhood. Before they left, he said "I'll pray to God for the answer." I responded by saying "I'm not attacking you. You've been tricked, your god is the father of lies."

If you say, well, what's the big deal? I don't tell very many stories, but the reason this event came up and I was led to share it because of John 4:24.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

You can believe in something as sincere as you want. It doesn't matter how sincere you are, if you do not have God, if you don't know the God of the universe, and his son as your Savior, you are lost. Others say, "Well, our god is just your god by a different name." My name is Jim, his name is Jehovah, and he's God. If you call him something else, you will miss heaven and you will find hell as your eternal waiting place. The idea that God doesn't care who we believe in as long as we're just sincere is wrong. It does matter. You have to be right.

How is it that you understand that if you play a football game that you've got to follow the rules? How is it we think we don't need to follow them when it comes to something as important as eternity? I want you to know that Jesus Christ is the one who paid for our sins, the Jesus in the Bible, the one who's always been God, who was with God in the beginning. That's what we're studying. And that's what we need to know. He told the woman at the well, you can't go to your mountain and find God. You're not going to be able to go to Jerusalem and find God. He's there of course, in spirit, but you're not going to find him by going anywhere. Romans chapter 10, is an example of misaligned enthusiasm.

Romans 10:1-4 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. (2) For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. (3) Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (4) Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Your heart may be full of desire to live for God, but if you don't know anything about his word how are you going to do it? How can you live for God when you know nothing about him?

One day when I was a contractor, I picked up a bunch of my workers to take them to a job site. One of them picked up my Bible that was laying in the seat and while we were driving, he was looking through the Bible and said, "Wow, you really got that marked up." I said, "Those are the instructions for life. Are you saved?" He said, "I'm going to be next Monday." After further discussion I found out that he was planning on being baptized in a Mormon temple. I said to him "How is it that we can't play a game without having the right information? How is it we think we can live for God without the right information? Isn't that amazing?" (Thankfully, I was able to lead him to Christ later that day.) I wonder how many of us believe in the pan theory, "it's all going to pan out in the end." It isn't.

Galatians 1:11-12 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. (12) I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

John 4:25-26 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (26) Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

I would love to have seen the woman's face. It reminds me about Mary when she went to Jesus' tomb where he was buried after his crucifixion. She gets there and thinks that Christ's body must have been stolen. She's crying and just bawling her eyes out. Christ walks up and says, "What's the matter woman?" She thought he was a gardener and said somebody must have stolen Jesus' body. Jesus said "Mary." Then she looked up, and she knew that Jesus was alive! I would love to have seen Mary's face.

John 4:27-30 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" (28) Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, (29) "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (30) They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

I don't believe there's anything in the Bible by accident. It says she left her water jar there. I think God wants us to see exactly what went on. I'm convinced that this woman has become a believer and is leaving her past behind. This woman, who has had five ex-husbands and is living with a boyfriend, has never had any peace in her life, drops everything and heads straight toward the town. Her life has been a shambles. She never could find what she had been looking for. But all at once her soul finds what she has been searching for ever since she's been old enough to think. She finds it in this person and heads to town to tell everybody about him. It's interesting how she addresses the townspeople. She says, "*Could this be the Christ?*" Did she still not understand?

Jewish women didn't have much respect in that time. In a Jewish court of it took two women's testimony to equal that of one man. I'm confident that the Samaritans weren't any different and were probably worse. Therefore, she doesn't say "*I found the Christ.*" She said in effect "*Let's go see*" and the whole town rushed out to see what she was talking about.

Did she move back in with this guy she was living with? Did they get married? Did she paint the sky blue with profanity the next time she was mad? What did she do? We don't know, but she was a new creature and things were going to change for her, but not all at once. She didn't instantly become a *mature* Christian.

John 4:31-33 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." (32) But he said to them, "*I have food to eat that you know nothing about.*" (33) Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

The disciples minds were on food. They were hungry, but were not going to eat until he did. The woman's mind was on a loftier plane at this moment than the disciples because their mind was on material things but Jesus and hers were on eternal things.

John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

This is similar to what Christ said to Satan in Matthew four. Jesus had been in the wilderness 40 days, was hungry and Satan came to him. (By the way, rocks in Palestine don't look anything like Arkansas rocks. Never buy a piece of heavy equipment that came from Arkansas because the rocks around here are jagged and crooked and tear everything up. The rocks in Palestine are round and they kind of look like loaves of bread.)

Matthew 4:3-4 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (4) Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Christ knew what his plan was in Samaria. He said so in *John 4:4 And He **had** to pass through Samaria.* Think about this: Christ's life was planned. If you're a believer yours is just as planned. While you're not God and you're not perfect, God has orchestrated and planned your life out just as much as he did his only son.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

In other words, you have a destiny. Jesus knew that a woman was waiting for him to get to Samaria, and he went there. Now the thing is, he knew. My friends, you need to know. God has a plan for you. He has a destiny for you. You're not just out here living and wandering around and trying to survive. If you are, I feel sorry for you. It is important that we share the good news about Jesus Christ. It is something we are to do as believers.

The woman at the well left her jar of water there and went back to town. Christ left his thirst there and did the will of the Father. Some things are just more important than what is physical. A curse on our society today is that we are so materialistic, that all we think about are the things that are around us. Things like our toys, possessions, and what entertains us. While I believe in a Judeo-Christian work ethic, we shouldn't work ourselves to death without reading His word and finding out that there's more to it than to life than our selfish desires.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. (15) For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (16) To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

Paul was describing a victory parade by a Roman military general. When the general came home after defeating an enemy, the townspeople burned incense, spread flowers, and played music to his god. The aroma was an fragrance of victory for that town and that general and his army. It also was an aroma of defeat for the prisoners who were captured to be slaves or killed. If you are a believer in Christ, you carry with you the fragrance of victory. Sometimes we're so busy acquiring and playing with our stuff that we forget we were preordained to carry the fragrance of the victory of Christ everywhere we go. What do people think of you where you work, where you play, and in your own home? Are you a fragrance of the goodness of Jesus Christ?

Paul writes to the Ephesians and Colossians as a church body, telling them that they should have a testimony as a church body.

Ephesians 1:15-16 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, (16) I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Colossians 1:4-6 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— (5) the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel (6) that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

In the following passage, Paul talks to an individual (Philemon) about his walk.

Philemon 1:4-7 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, (5) because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. (6) I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. (7) Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Isn't it that true of you as an individual, and to us as a church, that we share just by our being a fragrance that we carry with us of the goodness of God?

What comes to mind when people hear about you? Do they think "That is one gripey old guy." Or "That is one guy who makes a lot of money."

Wouldn't it be awful to be thought of that way? Wouldn't it be awful to be just thought of as somebody who could really swing a deal and make tons of money like Rockefeller used to do? (By the way, he's not making deals anymore.)

Paul said in *Philippians 1:21* *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* Everything else is lost when you die if you're not living for Christ

I think that God is bringing judgment on our nation. Our political leaders don't know how to get out of the rain. Common sense is so uncommon in Washington, and I believe it's because God has brought judgment on our nation as evidenced by the decisions judges make. An example was when a woman won a lawsuit because she spilled a cup of coffee on herself while she was driving a car. (That was a jury trial, so the jury was dumber than the judge, which is pretty dumb.) I believe God has brought judgment on our nation economically. I'm not a prophet, or the son of the Prophet, so I could be wrong, but I don't see it getting better. If things should get better, then the truth will come out and the economy will collapse. God might be judging us in this way to slow us down so that we learn what's important in life. When you're so busy playing with stuff and seeking pleasure that you don't have time to know what's important, then you will get run over by your own stuff. One thing I have learned is that the more you own, the more it owns you. I think God wants us to see what's exciting in life. The excited life is a life that focuses on God, which is why we're here. If you go to work tomorrow with the attitude that "God brought me here just like he did Jesus in Samaria, I wonder what he's got for me today," then it will be a good day. If you go there thinking about how mean your boss is and how unfair the world is to you, then you will miss the reason you are there. Your day is planned in advance and if you will wake up and allow God to work, your day will have purpose.

God doesn't have my plans for you, and he doesn't have your plans for me. But he has plans for you. If you want to live an exciting life, you should wake up in the

morning knowing that God has created the day and that he has something for you. That's when you will understand it. We are to share our love of Jesus Christ.

John 4:35-38 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (36) Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. (37) Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. (38) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

While he's telling the disciples this, Jesus sees the Samaritans are coming down the hill toward them.

The harvest in scripture comes right before judgment. They were in a time right before judgment and a harvest was coming. As I understand scripture today, our job is to sow seeds, the big harvest is coming. Our job is to sow the seed, to share the Word of God.

John 4:39-41 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." (40) So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. (41) And because of his words many more became believers.

Notice that in those two days, we don't have a record of any miracles being performed. Jesus was there sharing himself because the Samaritans didn't need miracles to believe in him.

1 Corinthians 1:22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

The Samaritans accepted Christ, and there was fellowship. Many more became believers because of his words. Many pastors would tell you that leading people to Christ is the most important thing you can do. That's important, but it's not the most important thing. The most important thing that you can do as a believer is to live for Christ and be obedient to him. Won souls will be the byproduct of that. You will carry the fragrance with you everywhere you go. I would rather have a church full of people living for Christ than I would a church full of soul winners. If you have a church full of people living for Christ, you will automatically have a

church full of soul winners. So tomorrow when you get up, you need to know that God has a plan for you, he wants you to follow it just as Christ did for him. The days are very short. We need to work hard all day because night is coming.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Are you living an exciting life? If you're not, and you're a believer, you should be. Even if you've wasted every day up until today you can draw a line in the sand and start all over today and allow Him to guide you the rest of today and tomorrow, next week, next month and next year.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If you are without Jesus Christ, you have no future and none of this applies to you. Without Jesus Christ only hell waits for you. You can turn to him where you are right now. You can believe in Him and accept Him for eternal life. Do you know what? He's got a plan for you. And that plan was written down before the foundation of the world, waiting for you to fall in line. But you have to turn to Christ first. <https://sagercreek.com/how-to-be-saved/>

If you're a believer and you've caught yourself mumbling about the day and mumbling about the week and mumbling about your status and mumbling about this and mumbling about that, be reminded that the nation of Israel suffered judgment under God because They murmured against God. I encourage you to find out what God has for you each day.

Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for Christ and all he's done for us. We thank you for loving us enough to give us a future here on this earth and a future in eternity. That is fantastic. For your honor and glory, not for ours, in Jesus name we ask that you help us walk with you on a higher plane than we ever have before. Amen.