

Sunday October 8, 2023 | John 4:29-54

Through this study of John, I hope we come to see Jesus with more clarity. To see His care, and compassion for people. The perfect balance of truth and love. How His truth is able to radically change people. This woman who had been avoiding the towns people is now headed back to town to tell everyone about her conversation with Jesus.

John 4:25-28 ESV

(25) 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."

(26) Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**"

(27) Just then His disciples came back. **They marveled that He was talking with a woman**, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

(28) **So the woman left her water jar** and went away into town and said to the people,

(29) "**Come, see** a man who told me all that I ever did. **Can this be the Christ?"**

(30) They went out of the town and were coming to Him.

Jesus is the Messiah. He was willing to tell a Samaritan this so plainly due to their lack of assumptions. The Jews had many ideas of what the messiah would be like. Their focus was mainly on how the messiah would solve the political problems of the day. They emphasized the conquering king side of the messiah. They had missed the suffering servant. **A sacrifice for sin had to be given before the kingdom could be established.** The Samaritan's did not have these same political assumptions. After Jesus plainly told her He was the Messiah she wants to tell everyone else.

This woman has a long history in town. She is a social outcast, and avoids the town people. She has been in 6 different relationships, and plenty of history and drama left over from each one. But she met Jesus. As she heads into town, she invites everyone to come meet Jesus for themselves. She asks "**Can this be the Christ?"** and in the Greek it expects a no response. Meaning she literally said "**this is not the Christ, is it?"** She doesn't try to convince anyone of anything, just invites them to consider Jesus.

We have turned Christ into a proper name, sometimes we even act like it is Jesus' last name. Christ is a title; Jesus is **THE** Christ. **Christ means the anointed one.** It is the same as Messiah in the Old Testament. It is the title as the ultimate deliverer. The Christ is God's anointed who will deal with sin and set all things right. Paul focused on the same truth.

Acts 9:22 NAS95

(22) But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that **this Jesus is the Christ.**

Jesus is not just a moral teacher, who emphasized love. He is the Christ who will atone for sin.

The woman's testimony starts to cause a stir in town and people start heading out to see Jesus. The disciples are trying to make sense of everything.

John 4:31-34 ESV

- (31) Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "**Rabbi, eat.**"
 (32) But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."
 (33) So the disciples said to one another, "**Has anyone brought him something to eat?**"
 (34) Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.**"

Jesus had sent the disciples into town to find food because He was tired from the journey. Now Jesus is saying He has food that they do not know about. Imagine how frustrated some of them became by this statement. John is continuing to show the misunderstandings of spiritual things with earthly things. Jesus is not talking about physical food but what spiritually satisfies.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 ESV

- (2) And you shall remember the whole way that **the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you**, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.
 (3) And He humbled you and **let you hunger and fed you with manna**, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

God could have fed Israel in so many different ways. **He chose a method that needed daily reliance.** Each day except the Sabbath Israel had to rely on God and walk with Him. He wanted an ongoing active relationship with them. Jesus knew that true satisfaction was not found in having physical needs met but in walking in the will of God. The disciples have been focused on the earthly needs and demands of the day. **He is trying to help them see the eternal.**

John 4:35-38 ESV

- (35) Do you not say, 'There are yet **four months, then comes the harvest**'? Look, I tell you, **lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.**
 (36) Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit **for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.**
 (37) For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'
 (38) I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

When you plant seed, you do not harvest the same day. The common phrase of the day was harvest comes 4 months later. Jesus is pointing out that the fields are rip for harvest. There are people all around them that need the truth that Jesus is the Christ, they need eternal life. The fields are ripe.

The disciples were focused on the trip, and what would happen once they reach Galilee. They did not see the work God had right in front of them. The others that have gone before them would be the Old Testament prophets and even John the Baptist. People were ready to hear the truth.

The disciples were not starting from scratch, and neither are we. You never know what role you might have in someone's life when you share truth. It might be their first contact with the gospel or their tenth. We should lift up our eyes and see the eternal things God has for us each day. It might be a conversation with a coworker or offering to pray for a neighbor. The fields are ripe.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 ESV

- (9) For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, **God's building**.
- (10) According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder **I laid a foundation**, and **someone else is building upon it**. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.
- (11) For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ**.
- (12) Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—
- (13) each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and **the fire will test what sort of work each one has done**.
- (14) If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.
- (15) If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

As believers we are God's building. There is one foundation of Jesus Christ. We have the tremendous opportunity to build on top of that foundation. Salvation is just the start. No one looks at a building that is just a foundation, a slab with nothing on it and thinks the job is done. Now comes the time to build it up. This is what we have been called to in the church. **To build on top of the foundation of Jesus. To daily walk in the eternal things Jesus has laid out for us.** Living with Jesus will be the most exciting satisfying thing we ever do. The disciples were missing the eternal that was right in front of them. Let's not miss the eternal in front of us.

John 4:39-42 ESV

- (39) **Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony**, "He told me all that I ever did."
- (40) So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days.
- (41) **And many more believed because of His word.**
- (42) They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, **for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.**"

God was big enough to use the Samaritan woman's testimony. Even with her sinful background. It is God who does the work. We get to be a part of it. He can use any of us.

The Samaritans in town first believed because of her testimony, then they needed to go spend time with Jesus. It became personal for them. Their faith had grown to not rely on her testimony any more. This describes how we grow in Jesus. There is a time when our trust Jesus might rely on someone else. Then as we grow, we begin to have a firsthand knowledge of Jesus. **It is the difference of being told you can trust Him and knowing you personally can trust Him.** These Samaritans had seen that Jesus was the savior of the World.

Hebrews 2:9 ESV

(9) But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, **so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.**

His offer of salvation is for everyone. **He tasted death for everyone.** When Jesus paid for sin, it covered all sins ever committed for all time. He paid it all. This is what makes rejecting Jesus such a tragedy. It is not that His death on the cross could not pay for their sin, but they reject Him. Listen to how another Samaritan town responded to Jesus when He traveled through.

Luke 9:51-56 ESV

(51) When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem.
 (52) And He sent messengers ahead of Him, who went and **entered a village of the Samaritans**, to make preparations for Him.
 (53) But **the people did not receive Him**, because His face was set toward Jerusalem.
 (54) And when His disciples James and John saw it, they said, **“Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”**
 (55) But He turned and rebuked them.
 (56) And they went on to another village.

Another Samaritan village rejected Jesus because He was focused on heading to Jerusalem. He was going to pay for their sins on the cross, and they are upset that He values Jerusalem over the Samaritans and Mount Gerizim. **Everyone is responsible for their own reaction to Jesus.** We do not know how people will respond to Him. So, we share the truth. It is not our job to convince anyone, we cannot. **We simply offer Jesus.**

John 4:43-45 ESV

(43) After the two days He departed for Galilee.
 (44) (For Jesus Himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in His own hometown.)
 (45) So when he came to Galilee, **the Galileans welcomed Him**, having seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast. **For they too had gone to the feast.**

Jesus finishes His journey to Galilee. The Galileans welcome Jesus and are excited to see Him because they saw what happened in Jerusalem. They saw Him cleanse the temple and the signs He was doing (John 2:23). They are excited to see what Jesus will do next.

John 4:46-47 NAS95

(46) Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was **a royal official whose son was sick** at Capernaum.

(47) When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was **imploing Him to come down and heal his son**; for he was at the point of death.

We are introduced to a government official who most likely worked for king Herod. This official is desperate. His son is sick to the point of death. He comes imploring, begging, Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal him. This official must have heard about what Jesus has been doing and in desperation is willing to ask for His help. Everyone will reach a point of desperation in their life. A point where things seem in chaos and you don't know where to turn. This official gives us a good example, we should turn to Jesus.

John 4:48 NAS95

(48) So Jesus said to him, "Unless **you people** see signs and wonders, **you** simply will not believe."

As Jesus give His response, He addresses the crowd of Galileans. When He says "you" that is the second person plural, which proper English does not have. In the south it is y'all. He is not directly chastising the official, but the crowd who is wanting to see signs and miracles. They have come out and welcomed Him but are not there because He is the Christ, but to see what He will do.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 ESV

(22) For Jews demand **signs** and Greeks seek **wisdom**,

(23) but we **preach Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and **folly to Gentiles**,

(24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**.

The Jews wanted to see certain signs to be convinced that Jesus was the Christ. Jesus preformed many signs but they were not good enough for many of the crowds. It was not the signs they wanted to see. Gentiles want to be convinced through wisdom or skillful arguments. But the even the best reasoned evidence never seems to be enough. Our culture likes to pretend that the truth of the Word is incompatible with observable science. This is entirely not true. **The truth of the Word of God always fits observable science**. But it is not compatible with their assumptions, and worldview. Our current culture is trying to define truth by their experience. Their own passions and desires become the standard for truth. At the end of the day people must decide what they are going to do with Jesus. **Is He the Christ who was crucified for their sins?**

The official is their pleading with Jesus for one simple reason, His son is dying.

John 4:49 ESV

(49) The official said to him, "**Sir, come down before my child dies.**"

He pleads with Jesus again, please come to Capernaum. Save my son!

John 4:50 ESV

(50) Jesus said to him, “**Go; your son will live.**” **The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him** and went on his way.

Jesus tells the official to go home, His son will be healed. The official must have had a flood of mixed emotions at Jesus’s answer. His son is going to live, but Jesus is not coming to lay hands on him, or to offer some medicine. He had to ask himself, did He trust Jesus? Was Jesus powerful enough to save his son by merely speaking? Instead of arguing with Jesus to come to Capernaum, or begging more the man takes Jesus at His word. The official believed what Jesus said and left. If the official thought Jesus could help his son in Capernaum, then surely, he could help Him in Cana. **What a testimony to what trust is.** Taking Jesus at His word. If Jesus says it in the Word of God, can we trust that it will really happen? **Do we take Jesus at His word?**

John 4:51-54 ESV

(51) As he was going down, his servants met him **and told him that his son was recovering.**

(52) So he asked them **the hour when he began to get better**, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

(53) The father **knew** that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” **And he himself believed, and all his household.**

(54) This was now **the second sign** that Jesus did when He had come from Judea to Galilee.

His son is healed the moment Jesus said it would happen. Jesus said it and it happened. The official believed in Jesus. He had seen that His word was true. He then shared this truth with His whole household. And everyone believed. Just like the Woman at the well. **When a believer is excited about Jesus and what He has done it is contagious.** They are drawn into Jesus. This miracle showed His tremendous power. He could heal without even seeing the person, touching them, or providing medicine. He must be the messiah.

It is interesting to compare the reactions of Nicodemus, the Woman at the well, and the official. All three have a personal experience with Jesus. But only two are saved right away. By resume, we would have expected Nicodemus to walk away saved, not the Samaritan Woman and official. **Nicodemus had the most baggage to work through.** He had a self-righteousness that was going to take longer to deal with. By the end of the gospel Nicodemus will believe in Jesus. This is how dangerous pride and self-righteousness are. **They get in the way at taking Jesus at His word.** Let’s walk in a trust of Him and encourage others to trust Him.

Psalms 121:1-3 ESV

(1) **A Song of Ascents.** I lift up my eyes to the hills. **From where does my help come?**

(2) My help comes from **the LORD**, who made heaven and earth.

(3) **He will not let your foot be moved;** He who keeps you will not slumber.