

# EXCHANGING GOD'S GLORY FOR...

## (PART 2)

### SIN

- In our society today the word sin is not well-regarded.
- As the church we are at least partly responsible for this negative reaction.
- We are guilty of downgrading others in our culture.
- We need to reintroduce this word into our culture with the clear and biblical understanding.
- We all have the same spiritual heritage – which is an inclination to sin.
- We simply cannot be on mission with the gospel without understanding the reality of sin in each of our lives.

### THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

- Jesus confronts her with her need.
- Jesus confronts her with the truth.

<sup>7</sup>A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> 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 with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> 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."<sup>11</sup> 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?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> 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 4:7-14

### THE LIVING WATER

- Satisfies internally and eternally.
- Brings true satisfaction and contentment.

**EXCHANGING GOD'S GLORY** for a dream or a hope, a career or a particular level of success, for fame or fortune, or maybe a relationship or an accomplishment?

- Everyone is living for something or someone.
- If it is not Jesus – if it is not His love and forgiveness that we are receiving – if it is not the living water – than we are exchanging God's glory.
- Are you exchanging God's glory today? For what?

### NICODEMUS - YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

John 3:1-7

- Jesus approached the Samaritan woman regarding her lack of satisfaction with her life.
- Jesus approached Nicodemus regarding his self-satisfaction with his life.
  - There is a paradigm shift that must occur for Nicodemus.
    - New birth is not something you will earn.

- New birth does not come with your position as a leader.
  - New birth is not given as a part of your role in society.
  - New birth is not a result of your accomplishments or good works.
  - New birth is a gift, a gift given by grace.
- Nicodemus is just like everyone else – he is a sinner (John 3:3, 6-7)

Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman had something in common...SIN. They both fell short of the mark. They both needed the living water that only comes through Jesus Christ. They both needed to be born again.

We are created by God, in the image of God, created for His glory, created to worship Him. (Genesis 1:27, Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 43:21, John 4:23, Revelation 4:11)

We have been created by God and we have been created for God. (1 Corinthians 6:13)

“I may, I suppose, regard myself or pass for being a relatively successful man. People occasionally stare at me in the streets. – that’s fame. I can easily earn enough to qualify for admission to the higher slopes of the internal revenue service – that’s success. Furnished with money and a little fame even the elderly, if they care to, may partake of trendy diversions – that’s pleasure. It might happen once in a while that something I said or wrote was sufficiently heeded for me to persuade myself that it represented a serious impact on our time – that’s fulfillment. Yet I say to you – and I beg you to believe me – multiply these tiny triumphs by a million, add them all together, and they are nothing – less than nothing, a positive impediment – measured against one drink of the living water Christ offers to the spiritually thirsty, irrespective of who they are.”  
–Malcolm Muggeridge (British writer)

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TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

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