

Evangelism and a Christ-like Posture

John 4:1-42 ESV

⇒ Discipleship: Learning from Jesus to live like Jesus
 ⇒ Evangelism: Learning from Jesus to speak of Jesus

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ 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.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ 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.) 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 the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”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.

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.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.”

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.”

5 Christ-like Postures for Evangelism

We are to be:

1. Intentional

- a. “Nothing our Lord did was done haphazardly or accidentally. All his actions were deliberate...” - D. M. Lloyd-Jones
- b. He was weary - he wanted rest and needed food and water
 - i. Rest was possible but he chose to engage
 - ii. Water was available but he spoke of the living water that he had to give
 - iii. The disciples had food yet he had food they did not know about
- c. He was intentional about preaching the good news of the kingdom of God
- d. Me at Woodstock Pro Bus
- e. Application: Dever in *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*: “...we don’t pray for opportunities to share the gospel, so how surprised should we be when they don’t come?” And when they do come, we don’t recognize them.
 - i. Prayer is the means God has ordained for us to participate in his work on earth
 - ii. Praying for opportunities will keep us alert and aware when an opportunity presents itself

2. Determined

a. No Easy Task - Obstacles:

i. Ethnic

1. Samaritans were a people of mixed ethnicity, partially descended from the remnants of the northern tribes of Israel and ethnic groups they came in contact with while exiled
2. In Jesus' time the Jews hated the Samaritans even more than they despised "pure" Gentiles, for they regarded them as polluting the blood of the patriarchs."

ii. Religious

1. The religious beliefs of the Samaritans were also mixed, and this would present a second barrier for a devout Jew
2. The religion of the Samaritans was a blend of the worship of the true God with the pagan idolatry of the peoples from around Babylon
3. The Samaritans accepted the books of Moses as Scripture but had built their own temple on Mount Gerizim
4. There was such fierce religious hostility between these two peoples that in 128 BC, the Jews had fought against the Samaritans and burned down their temple as a place of abominable sacrilege
5. The Jews despised Samaritans as heretics because of their confused theology and their improper worship

iii. Social

1. The woman at the well also presented a social obstacle to Jesus in that she was a woman
2. At that time, Jewish rabbis or teachers did not have women as disciples for the rabbis considered women to be irrational and untrustworthy and yet Jesus, a rabbi himself, unhesitatingly spoke with and taught women

iv. Ethical

1. Jesus feels constrained to overcome these barriers of race, religion, and gender, but the woman at the well also has a fourth problem—her sin
2. Her sin is not the “respectable” kind; she has been married five times and she is now living with a man outside of any marriage contract
3. The Samaritan woman was unacceptable not only to Jews but even to her own people
4. That is probably why she is at this particular well some distance from town, alone, and at an unusual time of day. Most women would usually go to draw water in the cool early morning, or in the evening after the heat of the day had passed, for social interaction with one’s neighbors. But this woman is at the well by herself in the full heat of the day.”

- b. The Samaritan woman clearly recognized that there were many things that should have prevented Jesus from conversing with her: ⁹ 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.)
- c. Fear of man was a real temptation-all of these obstacles could be personal aversions but they also represent a temptation for the fear of man...what would people think?
- d. Jesus was determined to share the good news so much so that even these obstacles could not stop him.
- e. We need to be determined!
- f. Application: Lift Up Your Eyes
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Lift up your eyes = acknowledge reality
 - iii. Reality is God’s Word - the harvest is ready and the crop is eternal life
 - iv. Acknowledging this is motivation to overcome obstacles!

Two lies: ① Everything is OK and there is no urgent need ⇒ the harvest can be lost
 ② Every interaction is extremely dangerous ⇒ the unbelievers are plants, not pythons

3. Vulnerable - LEARNING EVANGELISM FROM JESUS by Terram Barrs

a. "Jesus shows his vulnerability and need to her—he is tired and thirsty. The Creator of the world, the One who is the source of every river, every spring, every ocean, every drop of rainfall, the One who is the fountain of living water, the One who needs nothing from anyone—this One asks the Samaritan woman for a drink. He dignifies her by acknowledging his need of something she can do for him. He shows his vulnerability to her. He is thirsty and tired and she can help him. Again, this is such an ordinary request, but Jesus could not have done anything more dignifying. Such a request would have scandalized his contemporaries, not only the Pharisees and rabbis with their rules and regulations for every detail of life, but even the ordinary people whose lives were burdened down with such teaching. Yet we find Jesus asking for help or receiving what sinners can give him...

b. Application: Live an authentic, open, transparent life before your unbelieving friends, family, and acquaintances.

i. **Matthew 23:25 ESV** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

ii. Hypocrites = actor

iii. Jesus indicates that not being authentic is a flagrant sin

iv. Commit to living authentically, and thus vulnerably - people can smell a rat!

- Young moms - only one expecting perfection is you
- Seniors - your peers have lived long enough to know life is hard
- Intentional-Determined-Vulnerable-Respectful-Gracious
- Husbands + wives → marriage is a tough row to hoe

4. Respectful

- a. "Jesus treats the Samaritan woman as a rational and thoughtful person. ... Jesus enters into a theological discussion with her."
- b. What subjects did they cover?
 - i. the living water which only Jesus can give and which fills the soul to overflowing forever
 - ii. the patriarch Jacob who had given that particular well to his descendants and who was honored by the Samaritans
 - iii. the site of the proper place for worship—whether it should be Jerusalem as the Jews claimed, or Mt. Gerizim
 - iv. the nature of true worship
 - v. the coming of the Messiah
 - vi. the fact that salvation will be from the Jews.
- c. "In discussing theology with her, Jesus is again demonstrating respect despite her race, despite her wrong theology, despite her gender, and despite her sin."
- d. In teaching, persuading, confronting, and correcting her, he did so in such a manner so as to compel her to believe he was the Messiah: ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

↳ no rhetoric
↳ no name-calling
↳ no mean or unkind words
- e. **1 Peter 3:15 ESV** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- f. Application: Ask someone! I ask Nicole. Nate asked Tim and I.

God is sovereign in salvation and it seems he has ordained that jerks don't lead many people to Christ

Intentional-Determined-Vulnerable-Respectful-Gracious

Winning arguments and winning souls are not the same thing ... don't be a jerk

5. Gracious

- a. "...we need to reflect once more on how sweetly and gently Jesus draws the Samaritan woman to himself—although he is fully aware of the moral disaster of her life."
- b. We are sinners as evil as her yet God engaged us with grace! GOSPEL
- c. Application:
 - i. Mark Dever in *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*: "When we don't sufficiently consider what God has done for us in Christ—the high cost of it, what it means, and what Christ's significance is—we lose the heart to evangelize." And we lose the heart of evangelism!
 - ii. **And Can It Be? Charles Wesley**
 And can it be that I should gain
 An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me, who caused His pain—
 For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be,
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 Refrain:
 Amazing love! How can it be,
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 - iii. Behold the gospel and the grace you've been given-be amazed
 - iv. Let that be the source—the power and motivation—to be gracious to other fellow sinners

Intentional-Determined-Vulnerable-Respectful-Gracious ~ behold the gospel
 pray God's perspective be authentic no works