

“Come See a Man” (May 15, 2016)

Title: Taken from John 4:29

Text: John 4:1-30

- I/We need to be reminded of the message of John 4 repeatedly because we are prone to be wandering well seekers.

Unnamed woman’s message to us ... Come see a Man. Believe the words of this Man. Receive the gift of God from this Man. Come and drink, all who are thirsty!

John has a purpose in writing ...

- Jn. 20:31 *“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*
- Jn. 1:4 *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*
- John is selective in the people he chooses to include in his writing.
- The woman represents someone who believed and found life.
- Wow, what a God Encounter this woman had! Unexpected. Unplanned. Unprepared.

Context

Samaritans were half-breeds ... part Jew, part Gentile.

Outcasts & despised by Jews. For a Jewish Rabbi to ask a favor of a Samaritan, esp. a woman, was unheard of. Their religious system that competed w/Jews (V. 20).

- Believed in the coming Messiah (V.25)

Woman was blind to eternal realities.

- Only interested in the affairs of this life (my water supply).

She confused the physical with the spiritual (as did Nicodemus & disciples).

- Ignorant of the gift of God and the Giver of that gift.

V. 5 Why did Jesus go through Samaria? He did so on purpose!

He had to pass through Samaria ... Strictly speaking that is not entirely true for there were other routes He could have taken to get to Galilee.

It would be like saying a man drove from Seattle to New York but he “had to go through” Titusville because a friend lived there. You are that friend that Jesus went out of His way to meet. God knows there are people here that are thirsty and desperate for soul-satisfying drink.

The village of Sychar is built up on a hill which gave the inhabitants protection from enemies but it also meant that they had to travel 45 mins. one-way down the rocky path to get water.

This woman knew men but she had never met a man like this one before ... a strange kind of man, the kind she has never met before, who engages her in conversation on a level she has never known before and makes wonderful promises to her and then suddenly, tells the secret thoughts & activity of her life and incredibly, doesn't seem to be put off by it.

This is no ordinary man. And so she declares, *“Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”* (V. 19)

Jesus brought her face to face with ...

(1) Her sinfulness (V.16)

- Prov. 28:13 *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”*

(2) Her thirst (V. 10)

(3) Her emptiness (V. 13-14)

- Seeking satisfaction from a well other than God (relationships; religion).

Jer. 2:13 *“My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

- She has a genuine God encounter as evidenced by her powerful public testimony which caused many to believe (V. 39).

Four Questions about the Woman

1. Would her lifestyle change after the God Encounter?
2. Would her perspective on people, pleasure, possessions be different?
3. What would now bring her greatest pleasure?
4. How would she now define true religion?

Four Statements about You

1. God created you with a thirst.

2. Where you look to satisfy that thirst will shape the direction for life.
3. People, pleasure, possessions, popularity, power, profession, projects never quench that thirst.
4. Created things were meant to point you to the Creator.
 - That's why someone can say, "Why do I have so much and yet feel so empty."
 - That's why Jesus could say, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?"

If a person is living for people (incl. & esp. himself), pleasure, possessions, etc. he has a replacement God. He has put himself or creation where God alone is to be. When we do that, we will never be satisfied because you are asking those things to do what they were never designed to do ... be worshiped.

Four Lessons about Soul-Winning

1. Jesus would not allow personal comfort (hunger, thirst, rest) to hinder reaching out to others.
2. Jesus would not allow personal prejudice to hinder reaching out to others.
3. Jesus guided the conversation from the natural to the spiritual and let the Word take effect.
4. Jesus did not avoid speaking direct about her sin and her true need.

The Search for Life ... There are only two places to look to quench our thirst for life. The Creator or the created. We make the mistake of looking *horizontally* for what can only be found *vertically*. Where we are searching for life and purpose is answered by what we put in the following blanks ...

- "If only I had _____, then my life would be _____"
- Earth will never be your savior. Material things are for your sustenance not your satisfaction.

Jesus said ...

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Jn. 10:10

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (Jn. 17:3)

- It is not enough to simply know things about God ... we need to know God.

Isa. 55:2 asks life's important question ... *"Why do spend money for that which is not bread and why do you labor for that which does not satisfy?"*

- God Himself is the only food that will ever satisfy your heart. Everything and everyone else will leave you hungry and dissatisfied. Our souls will never be satisfied until they find their satisfaction in God alone.

- People or things will never be your personal messiah. Not your possessions, not your marriage or family, your career, your new house or location, your promotion, your next experience ... all will come up short.

Perhaps Isaiah would ask you, “Why are you working so hard for what does not satisfy?”

- Jesus is better than all the pleasures, possessions, and pursuits of this world put together.

What matters most to me?

- Who or what captures my attention?
- My comfort or God’s glory?
- My agenda or God’s?
- Relationships with people more than God?
- Temporal more than eternal?
- Material more than spiritual?

Related Scriptures

Ps. 36:9 *“For with You is the fountain of life.”*

Prov. 4:27 *“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life that turns one away from the snares of death.”*

- Every other well other than God Himself is a death snare, a trap. Only God is life-giving.

Prov. 14:12 *“There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the way of death.”*