

THE METHOD

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John 4:1-26

1. Last week we looked at what motivated Jesus to “pass through Samaria” since the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, and we focused on the fact that Jesus came to save all the peoples of the world; not just Jews.
2. We also briefly discussed the Samaritan woman Jesus encountered at Jacob’s well and the fact that she had several strikes against her from a Jewish perspective.
 - a. She was a Samaritan.
 - b. She was a woman.
 - c. She had a moral problem.
3. Finally we saw that the church, like Jesus its head, should manifest the all-encompassing love that He exemplified.
4. This morning we are going to focus on:
 - a. The prospect.
 - b. The process.
 - c. The proclamation.

I. The prospect.

A. Many years ago I heard a preacher declare, “I can’t stand a drunk.”

NOTE: I doubt he had much of a ministry to those who had a drinking problem.

B. When we look at people do we see their **problems** or their **potential**?

C. Do we really believe that Jesus Christ is able to save and sanctify sinners?

NOTE: If we are saved and growing as Christians all we have to do to answer that question is to look in a mirror.

D. What can we surmise about this woman?

1. She probably lived a lonely life since other women would view her as a threat, after all she had been married five times and was currently living with a man to whom she was not married.

NOTE: She came to the well at a time when other women would not.

2. Since Jesus was a Jew she did not expect that Jesus would speak to her.

3. She probably did not have much self-esteem.

a. She had experienced five failed relationships.

b. She had possibly decided that marriage was not for her.

c. She was dependent on men for her survival.

NOTE: Are we depending on God or on people?

4. She was not ignorant.

a. She was articulate.

b. She was able to hold her own in a conversation.

c. She had some knowledge about the promised Messiah.

II. The process.

A. Jesus got her attention by doing the unexpected and by asking her for a favor. 7-9

B. He captured her interest by stating what He could do for her. 10

C. This led to a dialogue that ended with Jesus’ promise related to eternal life. 11-14

NOTE: Jesus used a similar approach with Nicodemus which should teach us something about how to share the Gospel. Jesus made a statement designed to get a response, which then led to a conversation rather than a presentation.

D. In response to her request for living water Jesus confronted her sinful lifestyle. 15-18

NOTE: The issue of sin cannot be avoided if we want people to be genuinely converted.

III. The proclamation.

A. Jesus' knowledge of her personal life convinced her that He was no ordinary man.

NOTE: The Holy Spirit knows what is going on in every person's life, and He will guide us in our dealings with others.

B. When the woman brought up the differences in their belief systems Jesus responded by proclaiming the truth rather than arguing with her.

C. Jesus stated that a new day had dawned.

1. Worship would no longer be about a place.

NOTE: The early church knew that, but we have forgotten what Jesus said and have prioritized places of worship in ways God never intended.

2. Jesus also pointed out that the Samaritans worshiped in ignorance, while the Jews at least possessed the truth related to the Messiah and salvation.

3. He went on to state that true worship was now to be internal rather than external.

NOTE: Only true worshipers can worship God, and a true worshiper is someone in whom God has created a place for Himself and indwelt that place in the person of the Holy Spirit.

A lost person is two dimensional, body and soul, while a person who has been born again is three dimensional, body, soul, and spirit.

NOTE: There is a difference between the manifestation of human emotion and the emotion manifested in response to the Spirit of God impacting our minds, emotions and wills.

4. A true worshiper becomes one by believing and responding to the Truth and living accordingly.

APPLICATION

1. In response to Jesus' clear proclamation of truth the woman declared her faith in the fact that the Messiah would one day come and declare all things to us, us being the Samaritans.

2. Jesus then stated clearly, "I who speak to you am He."

3. It is interesting that by God's design we have this incident recorded immediately after Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

NOTE: What a contrast between Nicodemus, the devote Jew, and this woman, a despised Samaritan.

4. We have a tendency to judge people based on some standard of human righteousness or accident of birth.

5. Yet from a spiritual perspective Nicodemus was just as lost, just as far from God, and just as deserving of Hell as this woman was.

6. They were both equally dependent upon the grace and mercy of God.