

I am He
John 4:5-26
March 12, 2023

Today we have the account of woman at the well. We all know the account. Jesus is waiting at the well for the disciples to come back with lunch. This woman, from Sychar came to draw water and was met by Jesus with an unusual proclamation. Jesus tells her that He has this amazing water, water that will spring up, so much so that it will result in eternal life.

Like Nicodemus from last week, who couldn't figure out the whole bon again thing, she didn't know what to think of water where she wouldn't have to go drawn from a well. While this is running around in her head, Jesus then goes on to tell her to call her husband. She says she has no husband for she was a little like Elizabeth Taylor who had a number of husbands but now hadn't taken the time to get married to the current man she was living with. And you thought things were better morally during Jesus' life.

She then is informed about a time to come when worship will not be in a specific place but it will be with each individual as they will worship, in spirit and truth. The woman knows Jesus is someone special, she perceives He is a prophet. She then points to the Messiah, the one who is coming. She tells Jesus that when He comes, He will tell of all things.

It is then Jesus lets the cat out of the bag and says, "I who speak to you am He." What was the expression on her face we do not know but with all of the exchange between she and Jesus, she was excited that she was standing in the presence of the Messiah who was talking with her, a woman, one He shouldn't talk to but He not only talked to her but could see inside her to know who she was and what had gone on in her life. She couldn't hold back. She had to let others know of who she had seen so that they too might meet Him as well.

Those she told were curious, maybe wondering if she could be trusted with such news as that. If you read further along in the chapter from John, you will find that they saw with their own eyes and came to the conclusion the woman had told the truth and that Jesus was the "Savior of the world."

It is interesting that Jesus would relate who He was to those the Jews considered outside of the salvation of God before them but we know they had an even harder time relating to who He was than these outcasts.

The woman and the others were looking for the Messiah to come. They didn't worship in Jerusalem like the Jews but did look to God for their lives. They believed and their hearts were made ready by the Holy Spirit to receive what Jesus came to give them.

Jesus stayed with them a couple of days. During that time they were brought to faith. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have waited their whole lives talking about the day when the Messiah would come. I imagine it must have been like we are now, thinking Jesus must be coming again soon with the situation the way it is with so much evil around us and around the world. People probably have been looking for Jesus' return in every generation. My Mom tells of her mom saying that things were so bad in the 40's, 50's and 60's that she was thinking Jesus would have to return during her lifetime.

Jesus is coming again, just as He said but what is supposed to go on in the mean time? It would make sense that Jesus would want all to know Him for who He really is. He is more than a great teacher as some would say. If they thought about it a minute and thought of a great teacher then those He talked to a lot, like the Pharisees would have come around you would think. Yet, we think of Him as a great teacher for the message He was telling. He was letting people know of why He came and let them know that He was the way the truth and the life and in order to get to God in heaven, they are going to have to go through Him.

He told of how His way was easy. Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I remember witnessing to a guy on our Alaskan cruise for our 25th wedding anniversary. He thought it was too easy. He needed to have his own works into the whole thing and said he didn't need some guy who lived long ago paying for his sins, he would pay for them himself. Yes, he will. He will pay with his life forever. So many are like him, not thinking that it just may go wrong for them and they won't be able to pay for their sins no matter how long they live on this earth.

People need to see that there is their view of how good they are and God's view. Jesus told those one day about loving your enemies, He said: 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

It is that perfection that we are all faced with. It is that perfection that others you meet need to understand. Once they realize that they aren't perfect and when they stand before a perfect God of judgement then their time will be up and they will know why they are going to hell.

We are here at this time and place to help others see their need for the real Jesus. Yes, He went to the cross for all as it says God so loved the world. Even though Jesus died for all, not all will take advantage of His work for them. They will either think they are good enough to face a God of love or they think they never could be good enough to come into the presence of God and deserve hell.

We know what Jesus did for all. Yes, we know we too DESERVE hell and yet because we have been given faith to believe that Jesus did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves, we know, based on His dying and rising again, we too will rise on the last day.

Jesus did what no other Jew was likely to do. He spoke to the Samaritan woman contrary to the custom of the day. He knew His salvation was for all, even a woman who had 5 husbands and was now living outside of marriage with yet another man. So it make no difference who you meet, each needs what you have to give for your message is the same as Jesus'.

Jesus knew her background, you may have to take some time to find out about the people you talk to. It may require a visit or a cup of coffee or maybe a few hours watching some children while they get a little time for themselves to where they will be willing to sit down and talk to you so you can listen.

Is your prayer daily for a chance to witness or to make a comment to get another thinking about their future? You know where you are headed. Jesus through the water and the Word has created faith in you. He lives in you by His Holy Spirit.

If He is going to take the time and effort in your life, what might He want from you? He is there to help you, to convict you when you have done wrong and encourage you to do right, even if it isn't perfect. He can use you to bring the Law and or the Good News to those He places in your path.

Did Jesus go looking for the Samaritan woman? It seems like it was a chance encounter. He asked for water, a natural thing to do since He didn't have anything to draw water with. Yet what did He do? He had a chance to witness to her, yes, pointing out how she has been no angel yet did He come down on her for that? No, but He did find out what she believed and where her hope lie.

You know so much. You know Jesus and that it is through He and He alone that anyone has any hope. Everyone needs to understand that they need Jesus. If they don't then the Law has to come into play. The law is already in them as God told Jeremiah to write: Jeremiah 31:31-33 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah wrote this to the Israelites but Paul in his letter to the Romans included Gentiles when he wrote: Romans 2:14-15 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them. . .

The Holy Spirit is working in you and in the lives of those you meet. He is preparing hearts and minds. Some need to be reminded they are sinners in need of a Savior. Others need to hear of a Savior who died for their sin filled lives. It may be one like the woman at the well or some other but all you come in contact with need what you have even if it is to encourage those who know Jesus already.