

John 4

This morning, I want us to see what Jesus did to make His first missionary to the nations. The first missionary to the nations was not a man. It was a woman. It is an incredible story of redemption. It is an incredible example of the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

John 4:1

*³ He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He *came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

*⁷ There *came a woman of Samaria 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 Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ She *said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

We will stop there, but keep your Bibles open to the passage, for we will not only consider these verses, but others from this story.

There are three components that Jesus used in the making of a missionary. These components take place in all of Jesus' confrontation with the exception of the last component. We will discover why that component is not found in all of Jesus' dealings with people who were potential missionaries.

First Component - The Confrontation

This was just that, a confrontation. Notice first about the confrontation, it was planned.

It was deliberate. From the language of the text, we understand that this was planned from eternity. Notice verse 4. He had to pass through Samaria. It was necessary for Him to go through Samaria. He was traveling from Judea to Galilee. The normal route of a Jew from Judea to Galilee was to travel east to Jordan, cross the Jordan, travel north to where Galilee borders the Jordan, and cross back over. There are two reasons for that. First, the land between Judea and Galilee was dry and dangerous travel. Second, there were Samaritans there. They were despised people. Jesus, however, purposed to travel through Samaria. It was necessary. He had a divine appointment.

Do not marvel if you sense God pursuing you. Don't marvel if God's Spirit is making you feel His presence. John Stott affectionately called it the Hound of Heaven who comes after you like a hound after a rabbit.

One of the great blessings of God is to know that He pursues you. He wants you in His kingdom. He wants you to fulfill completely all that He has purposed you to be for your life. I can honestly say that you will not find any greater satisfaction in your life than to be in a place where you are

fulfilling what God has made you to be. Listen to me now. You be missionaries where you are, wherever you are found tomorrow morning.

Notice also the specifics regarding where Jesus was and the time Jesus was there. It is amazing. He was at the well of Jacob on the parcel of land that Jacob gave to Joseph at 12 noon. Why not be there in the morning or evening when most people are there? It was purposed. There was one person He was destined to see, the Samaritan woman.

Not only do we see that the confrontation was purposed, we also see that Jesus engaged in a conversation that pointed to the woman's need. She needed the water from the well-spring of life where once she drink, would never thirst again.

There was a comparison to the water of the well of Jacob to the water Jesus offered. I find it interesting that Jacob's name is used and not Israel. Jacob may be referring to his humanity. The water Jesus offered referred to the spiritual. Drink from Jacob's well and you will thirst again. Drink from Jesus' well, and never thirst again. Drink from Jacob's well, find satisfaction for the moment. It is short-lived. Drink from Jesus' wellspring and find satisfaction that will be for eternity.

Now, you will notice what seem to be objections. I think they were probing questions the woman had to further understand who this was that was talking to her. She was a smart woman.

She came to the place in verse 15, "Lord, give me this water, in order that I may not thirst and I don't have to come here to draw water all the time." She understood, but not completely. To point further to the woman's need, Jesus pointed to her sin.

This brings us to the second component of the making of a missionary—The Conviction.

For her to understand her need, Jesus had to make her understand her problem—sin. Oh! Did Jesus have to remind her of sin? Yes. You can't sneak into the Kingdom without dealing with sin. Sin is what keeps us from being in the Kingdom. What was the woman's sin? It was adultery. "Where's your husband?" Jesus said. "I have no husband," said the woman. "You're right," spoke Jesus. "You speak the truth when you say you have no husband. You had five and the man you're with now is not your husband."

Oh, Preacher, this is the 21st Century. It's alright to co-habitate.

Public Opinion does not trump Divine Truth. Besides that, who are we as mere sinful humans to decide what is right and wrong, when we have the Almighty, Holy, Just God who has already established Law.

It may or may not be a particular sin that God points out to you. But He will show you that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness. You got to get forgiveness to receive eternal life. You must turn from sin to turn to the Lord.

The woman quickly changed the subject in a way. How does this guy know who I am and what I have done? Is He Messiah? She was looking for the Messiah. We will find out the other men of the town were also looking for Him.

Notice what Jesus said in response in verse 26. The NASB renders it, "*I who speak to you am He.*" Literally, the language says, "*I I am, the one speaking to you.*"

BAM!!! Fireworks goes off!! Lights flash in her soul and mind!! Sirens go off!! Life comes. It is fun to watch that happen in people when they finally understand. You see it in their faces. You see it and hear it in there gasp of discovery.

It took conviction to bring her to full realization of her need—she needed forgiveness of sin and change from life to death. She needed water that would never cause her to thirst again. She needed a person to give that to her. She found it in Jesus Christ.

Next component is the varying component—The Conversion

It varies not according to Jesus, but according to the one receiving the message. Not all of Jesus' confrontation ended in conversion. But this one did. How do we know?

She left her waterpots. She didn't thirst anymore. They were not important. She ran back to town. Look at what happens in verse 29.

²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" ³⁰ They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

Something changed in this woman. She became a credible witness.

She became a missionary!! Do you get it? If you have Christ, have come to where you are confronted the reality of sin and asked and received forgiveness and committed to Lordship of Jesus Christ, you are a missionary!!!!!!!

Look at verses 39-42.

³⁹ From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of His word; ⁴² and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

That's what a missionary does. It was her testimony that led the men to see Jesus to who He was. They believed not on account of the woman, but because they too have come to know through relationship, Jesus, the Savior of the world.

All may not be vocational pastors or missionaries sent by IMB. However, all are missionaries where God has placed you in the world. Business people, be a business person who is also a missionary. School teachers, be school teachers, but always looking for ways to also be a missionary to your school. Students, be the students, but always looking for ways to also be a missionary for Christ to your classmates.

Moms, be the moms God has called you to be. Be missionaries for Christ to your family. You must have the encounter first.