

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church Beaumont Tx.
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Sunday School Superintendent: Reverend Samuel Simon
Lesson By - Deacon Charles Blackmon
Lesson 3 March 14,2023, to March 19, 2023

Unit 1: Called from the Margins of Society

Topic: "Different, but the Same"

Background Scripture: John 4: 1-42

Print Passages: John 4: 7-15, 28-30, 39-41

Key Verse:

Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did (John 4: 39, KJV).

Lesson Aims:

- 1). Compare and contrast societal barriers in Jesus' time to the barriers that exist in the Church today.**
- 2). Confess your tendency to allow differences to hinder relationships.**
- 3). Offer hospitality to someone who is different from yourself.**

Introduction:

The personality in today's lesson is a Samaritan woman who experienced multiple marriages tension existed between the people of Judea and Samaria partly because of race and religion. In the eyes of many, the woman at the well had three things working against her: (1) she was a woman, (2) she was a Samaritan, and (3) she had been married multiple times. Jesus did not allow the cultural, social and religious strikes against her to prevent Him from reaching out and communicating with her. Jesus knew that the Samaritan woman would be at the well and He planned to be there to speak with her. It is important to affirm that Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman was not by chance; rather, it was part of God's intentional plan to further reveal Jesus' identity and bring the Samaritan woman and many others in her village into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Topic #1 "Confronting Societal Barriers" (John 4:7-9)

The first three verses of John 4 introduces Jesus' second long interview in John's gospel. The first was with Nicodemus, and the second was with a Samaritan woman. The difference between the two is that Nicodemus sought Jesus, but Jesus purposely sought this woman. Spiritually, His decision was because He had a divine appointment there to continue fulfilling His mission of seeking and saving that which was lost (Luke 19: 10). Jesus and His disciples walked about 34 miles from Jerusalem before resting. When Jesus rested beside a well, while the disciples went to purchase food. It was the sixth hour, it was about noon. As Jesus sat at Jacob's well, tired and thirsty, a woman of Samaria showed up to draw water (John 4: 7a). The woman's arrival at Jacob's well revealed two unusual dynamics. The first is that the woman came to the well to draw water at an usual time. She arrived at midday; but the usual time to draw water was in the evening or in the morning. The second, she traveled a long distance disregarding water sources closer to her village. Why would she do what she did? God ordered the woman's steps to meet a divine appointment, at the well at the very moment when Jesus would be there. Will you give me a

drink (John 4: 7b)? Jesus was alone when this happen because HIS disciples had gone to buy food (John 4: 8). John 4: 9 records the details of the woman's response to what seems like an ordinary request from a traveler. The woman was shocked and wanted to know why a Jew would ask her for a drink, since she was a Samaritan woman. Now upon the return of Jesus's disciples they marvelled that HE (Jesus) talk with the woman (John 4:27). Jesus' purpose in passing through Samaria was to breach hatred between Jews and Samaritans.

Topic #2 "Confronting Spiritual Blindness" (John 4:10-15)

Jesus ignored the woman's question and turned the tables on her. His reply with the phrases "the gift of God," "who is it that asks you for a drink" and living water put her in the position of the thirsty (John 4: 10). Jesus caused the woman to ponder the capacity of "living water" to quench and satisfy the thirst of her soul. The Samaritan woman challenged Jesus, and her response showed the depth of her spiritual blindness (John 4: 11-12). Jesus reference to "living water" was spiritual not physical, and Jesus is greater than Jacob. She may have pondered in her mind if Jesus could even produce "regular water" because Jesus did not have a bucket and a rope. Jesus refocused the woman's attention on the issue at hand (John 4: 13-14). Jesus made a distinction between the well water and the "living water" the water from Jacob's well was great, but it would not permanently satisfy thirst. However, those drinking the "living water" Jesus offered would never thirst. The woman asked for this gift even though she did not fully understand what she was requesting (John 4: 15). All the woman heard was that she would never thirst again. She had reached the point of accepting Jesus's offer of eternal life.

Topic #3 "Hearing, Seeing, Believing" (John 4: 28-30, 39-41)

Jesus capitalized that the Messiah would come and explain everything by announcing that He was the anticipated Messiah (John 4: 25-27). With her spiritual vision corrected, she left her water pot at the well, and went into the city inviting people to come and see a man that knew everything about her past (John 4: 28-29). Oh, the things we are willing to leave behind when we have a genuine encounter with Jesus. A sizable group from her village, Sychar, gathered at her request and believed in Him because of her testimony (John 4: 39). Many more believed after He ministered in the area for two days at the crowds request. The out reach effort in the city by a woman who refused to remain quiet resulted in many persons believing that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. This was the unspoken reason for why Jesus traveled through Samaria. Jesus did not allow systemic racism and sexism, or religious prejudices to hinder Him from offering eternal life to all persons of society.

Summary:

An unlikely vessel became a strong witness to the Gospel. Jesus goal was to save her and not to shame her. Jesus strategy was to lift her up and not tear her down. Jesus' goal was to save the Samaritan woman and send her into the world to share the Good News.