

INTRO: What we have in this 4th chapter of John is the story of the Samaritan woman that Jesus met at Sychar as she was drawing water from the well of Jacob around noon day. It is interesting to note that she came at the 6th hour of the day when it was the hottest, not as most of the woman who came later on in the cool of the day. But this woman was different, she was not of the respectable class of women as she had had five husbands and the man she was with at that time was not her husband. Therefore she would not associate with those "ladies" of the day because of her shame for what she was and what she was doing. She was also amazed that a Jew would dare to stop and speak with her, a Samaritan, but apparently He spoke with love and compassion and offered her a way out of her miserable existence. She was a Samaritan, hated by most Jews, she was guilty of sexual immorality and she was a woman -- three things that would have kept most Jews from associating with her. And the Pharisees of that day would have treated her much different than did Jesus Christ. She knew that Messiah was coming to the Jewish race, for the Samaritans believed this, she even said, **"...when that One comes, He will declares all things to us."** When Christ revealed Himself to her as the Messiah she accepted Him for no one else could tell her all the things she had done. She knew He was the One, the Messiah. After this encounter with the Lord, we do not read where she went back to where she came from, rather we read she left her water pots and headed to the city and said to all she saw, **"Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"** One encounter with Jesus Christ and her life was changed dramatically and though we never read of the this woman again, I believe she never went back into those evil ways to which she was accustomed. When the truth to brought to bear upon our lives and we see ourselves as we ought to be seen, there are often dramatic changes - she changed her course in life once she saw Jesus Christ for Who He is.

Actual radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995:

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: THIS IS THE ATLANTIC CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGRES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WLL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

Needless to say, the Americans made the course adjustment. When the truth is finally brought to light, changes result and so it was in the case of the Samaritan woman. She had been proud of her heritage for the Samaritans were proud of claiming Jacob as her forefather so she asked Jesus if He was greater than Jacob. When He proved to her Who He actually was, she changed her course of direction in life and became a follower, a witness of Christ. What I want to look at today is what she did next, after her conversion.

A. We read **"So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city and said..."** She began to tell everyone what she had experienced, trying to convince those she met that certainly this must have been the Messiah.

1. Notice that whereas before she had been ashamed to go into public because of her sinful activities, now she was not afraid or embarrassed to go before them for now her sins had been forgiven, she had found Christ and she had been forgiven of those sins of which she once had been guilty. That "shame" of the past was gone and she was clean, forgiven of what she had done -- the Lord no longer held her sins against her so she was "free" from sin and could now walk in the "light" and she wanted everyone to know what had happened to her.

2. She was excited and had to express her excitement to everyone she met. What do we say about an individual that claims to have accepted Christ as their Savior yet they are content to remain quiet and almost seem reluctant to speak about Christ to others. Seems no joy, no excitement, not even an emotion of any sort If a person has been living in sin and destined for hell and now those sins

are forgiven and they are destined for heaven, one would think there would be some excitement and some desire to express to others what had happened.

3. Notice that this woman left the water pot at the well and headed for the city, she dropped or forgot what she was doing cause the message she now had was far more important than what she had been doing previously. The mundane affairs of life took a back seat to the message she now had to give and she had to get about proclaiming that message immediately.

4. We do not read where she went back to where she came from, she did not go back into the sins of which she had been guilty and now had been forgiven, rather she was on a new road and a new journey and the past was gone.

5. She did not have much to say, all she knew was this man had told her everything that she had done therefore He must be the Messiah. She did not wait until her knowledge increased, she did not wait till she finished divinity school, she did not wait till she could come up with an argument to answer each question that may be presented to her. Rather she just knew what she had been, she had met the Messiah, she received Him as her Messiah, therefore her life was drastically changed.

B. What has happened to Christian witnessing in our country? Are we afraid now because of political correctness? It would appear most congregations have decided to tell others about Christ is the job of the Preacher or Evangelist but no one else. Often that everyday person, from an ordinary background, living just like everyone else, with no, if little, religious training at all is the most effective with it comes to witnessing. People may think it is only the "job" of the minister to speak to others about Christ, but when a person is excited enough about the things of God to speak to those they meet about Him, this becomes more of a reality to the hearer. Let's face it -- most people expect the preacher to speak of religious things, but when someone like they are, just a lay person becomes excited for the things of God, people will take notice.

1. Our churches, that is the members of our congregations, used to present Christ to everyone they met. Often the conversation would turn around to religious matters and it was nothing unusual to bring neighbors to church to hear the gospel or even lead them to the Lord wherever possible, but proclaiming the gospel, the Great Commission given when Christ left this earth, seems to have disappeared and too many "professing" Christians have closed their lips and their hearts and have decided they are too busy to speak about Christ, or else that is someone else's job, not theirs.

2. Every truly new convert that I have ever met would go and tell others, especially their own about what the Lord has done for them - there was too much excitement to keep quiet so what has happened to our modern version of Christianity? Have we become too "civilized" or too "politically correct" to speak anymore because of fear of persecution or retaliation of some sort, or are we simply too embarrassed to speak about Christ to others? Where is the excitement, where is the zeal, where is the desire to spread what the Lord has done for us? Have we really been converted or just trying to live as a "Christian" with no change of heart or direction in life? Those that have been raised in church, familiar with all the actions that a Christian should perform -- are you just trying to live a life where others will think you are a Christian but with no reality to back up your profession? Have you ever really confessed your sins before God and asked for forgiveness and know they have been forgiven or are you still walking around with unforgiven sin in your life? Especially as a young person, it takes courage to stand up and speak about the things of God - but shouldn't we?

CONCLUSION: Maybe we do not speak to others about Christ cause we have nothing to say to them, we have not experienced the new birth, we are not excited about the things of God as we should be. If we really are converted and have accepted Christ as our Savior and have our sins forgiven, why are we so quiet, what are we afraid of, who are we afraid of, can we not bring up the name of Christ and not worry about what others may think. The only method God has devised to save others is through those that have been saved, are we doing our part? I am asking each of us in this coming week to determine to speak to at least one person about Christ - not saying we need to try and convert them on the spot, simply saying invite them to church, tell them what the Lord has done for you, or in some manner present the gospel to someone else. Learn to speak to others and when the Lord shows you an opening, do not be afraid to speak up. This Samaritan woman of our text 'immediately' went out with a simple message, "**Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?**" We are all called to be witnesses - just tell others what the Lord has done for you, it will make a lasting effect upon those that hear and perhaps it will be one more step in their road to salvation. It is time for the church to wake up from her sleep and become the witnesses and examples of Christ that we should be.