

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #34

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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Evangelism Tips

Emphasize Jesus.
Be friendly, and aggressive.
Ask a leading question.
Without planting seeds there is no harvest.
Be prepared to go where the conversation goes.

2

The Gospel of John

- In verse #10 Jesus reverses their roles – he started out asking for a drink and now seeks to convince her that she is the one who should be thirsty.
- And he is already turning the conversation to the one sidedness of salvation – **“if you knew the gift”**.
- He is going to offer her something she probably got little of because of her reputation – grace.

3

The Gospel of John

- When tempting Jesus the devil said, **“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”**
- Even the best offers of the devil come with conditions – not so with God; he offers a free gift without conditions and without cost on our part.
- Jesus, when pursuing the woman at the well effectively says, “if you would but ask for the gift of God you could have it without giving anything in return”.

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The Gospel of John

And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Rev 21:6

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Rev 22:17

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Thirst is the discomfort we sense when our body needs hydration. It is built into us to desire water for the cooling and smooth functioning of our bodies. It cannot be long ignored, and it cannot be satisfied artificially. The needs of our bodies drive us to find that which satisfies. Spiritual thirst works in exactly the same fashion.

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O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1

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The Gospel of John

- In Jesus' words in verse #10 I see the closest thing I've seen with respect to asking to be saved.
- John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' **you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.**"
- Let us be careful not to stretch the metaphor too far. Paul to the Philippian jailer, "**believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved**". (Acts 16:30)

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- 1st John 5:1 **Everyone who believes** that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.
- John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God.
- Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation **to everyone who believes.**

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The Gospel of John

As soon as we stretch the metaphor too far, we then can get into debates around the right words to use when we ask to be saved.

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• John 4:11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

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- The woman is not quite "there" yet with Jesus – she is talking H2O and he is talking about the Holy Spirit.
- More proof that she and Jesus are not yet on the same page is found in her comment about the depth of the well and his lack of a bucket.
- She may even think he is not in his right mind – **"you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep so just how do you propose to get this 'living water'"?**

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The Gospel of John

- Then she asks a question that she probably thought was quite clever, “**Are you greater than our father Jacob?**”.
- At this point Jesus could have come back with, “**yes, I actually know Jacob and yes, I am greater than Jacob**” but he is not interested in winning an argument – he is interested in winning her!
- Far better to “get it right” than to “be right” – **don’t allow pointless debates to get in the way of the truth.**

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Evangelism Tips

Emphasize Jesus.
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 Without planting seeds there is no harvest.
 Be prepared to go where the conversation goes.
 Avoid pointless debates that get in the way of the truth.

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The Gospel of John

- When Jesus spoke of the “living water” he was not, as some suppose, speaking of himself – he was making reference to the Holy Spirit.
- John 7:37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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The Gospel of John

• **John 4:13** Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again."

• Our bodies have certain needs and hydration is one of the most natural physical needs we have - we know from experience that thirst always cycles through and returns.

• So, while the woman is focused on water and her physical needs Jesus is clearly pointing to much greater needs and much greater solutions than she was.

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• Jesus is making an emphatic claim that what he is offering, symbolized by the water in the well, will never run dry and never run out.

• It is a well-established O.T. concept that God is the source of living water – that which sustains and never fails to satisfy.

• Cisterns in Palestine were good for a time, wells were far better, and springs even better, but living water that springs up for eternity can not be surpassed.

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• The idea that God himself is living water is not a new one.

• **Jeremiah 2:12** Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, **13** for my people have committed two evils: **they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.**

• Judah's God is called the "spring of living water," the source of life - they traded fresh living water for barrels of water that get warm, stale, and run dry.

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• **John 4:15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

• The woman’s words sound encouraging, perhaps even sound like she has already believed upon Christ and is saved.

• But look closer – she still doesn’t want him, but merely wants some benefit that she thinks he is offering.

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• She probably dreads going to the well everyday and having to lug 40-50 lbs. of water home for her household and would love to be relieved of that duty.

• She is not even necessarily convinced he can make good on his claim to supply living water, but if he can provide even some temporal benefit, she is ready to say, “yes”!

• Voddie Baucham believes many who are considered third world converts to Christ are really people responding to the prosperity gospel. (the poor are easy prey)

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• She has multiple needs she wants met – 1) she needs water everyday 2) she wants relieved of the chore and 3) she wants to avoid the shame of going out in public.

• **“Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”**

• There is no sense from her words that she is convicted of her sin and wants to repent and begin to live a life that is dedicated to God.

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- When we get to verse #29, we will see her interest in knowing “the Christ”, but for now she seems interested in only how she could benefit from his offer.
- Suppose that Jesus’ real offer was exactly what she thought it was – how would being relieved of needing to draw water change her life and those around her for the better?
- In 30-40 years or so when she is on her death bed, how valuable would that offer be?

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If you treasure Jesus for who he is and love him whether he relieves you of your water carrying chores or not, whether he feeds you or not, whether he heals you or not - and you desire his company whether rich or poor, you then know that it is he himself who satisfies every desire you have.

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Jesus Satisfies

When Jesus no longer stands preciously nigh,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
I look to the Rock that is higher than I,
And peace, wondrous peace floods my soul.

The sun may be shining on fields bright and gay,
With springtime perfumes in the breeze;
Yet, life without Jesus is winter in May,
Without Him no prospect can please.

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Jesus Satisfies

If living like Paul all victorious and free,
Tho' beaten while multitudes stare;
Tho' put behind bars 'twould be heaven to me,
For Jesus will dwell with me there.

If faithful in standing for what I believe
Brings scoffing and fire, I can dare
To laugh in the furnace where I am to burn,
For Jesus will dwell with me there.

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He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said to Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true." The woman said to Him, "**Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet**".

John 4:16-19

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Observation #1
Jesus is a man.
Observation #2
Jesus is a prophet.
Observation #3
Jesus is a God.

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Questions?

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