

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #36

The Journey

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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.
Avoid pointless debates that get in the way of the truth.

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- The John 4 woman has needs – 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 any lasting sense?
- 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 legitimate desire you have.

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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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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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- It seems as though she has little or no shame over 5 failed marriages and currently living in open fornication.
- Her answer to "go call your husband" is sort of accurate – she was correct with, "I have no husband", but not completely forthcoming.
- Jesus knows her life story, but this not the time for rebuking this sinful woman for acting like a sinful woman – this is the time for grace.

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- "I have no husband." – she answers quickly which should tell us she is progressing in her thinking.
- In other circumstances she would have evaded the question altogether – it was considered improper for a woman to talk to a strange man on her own.
- But she tries no such tactic – she doesn't evade, and she doesn't lie – it is as though the Holy Spirit is softening her heart already. (and he is)

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Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

John 16:7-11

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- You might ask at this point – In chapter 16 Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit would not come unless he leaves so how is he here in chapter 4?
- A great question – glad you asked. The Spirit’s role in the Old Testament is nearly identical to his role in the New Testament.
- No one gets saved and no one lives without the aid of the Holy Spirit – this includes every Old Testament saint.

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If God were to take back his Spirit and withdraw his breath, all life would cease, and humanity would turn again to dust.

Job 34:14

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Col 1:17

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From the Old Testament and the rest of the New Testament we understand more of what Jesus meant – he wasn't saying the Holy Spirit was not present, he was saying he wasn't yet present in the same measure as he will be.

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- The primary difference in his role from the Old Testament to the New is that we have a promise that he will indwell the believer permanently.
- It appears as though there is at least one exception to that rule – David.
- 1st Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

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- But wait, look at David's life – he committed adultery and murder; that doesn't sound like a Holy Spirit led life.
- First principle – we are not saved by our works, we are saved by his grace.
- Many have been the times when I think, "How can it be Lord that I could be counted as one of your own?" – and then I cling to "saved by grace"!

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When Paul said he was the chief of sinners has it ever occurred to you that his self-assessment could have been both pre and post conversion?

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- When most people consider Paul's declaration that he was "chief of sinners" they go back to his persecuting and murderous days.
- Post conversion Paul, knowing just how much the old nature still had a grip on him, had no hesitation about retaining the title.
- He was more sinful prior to salvation, but more aware of his sin after salvation.

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Indeed, once we are saved, we will still not be sinless, but it certainly should follow that we sin less. Our reduction in sin and sin patterns post-conversion should continue until the day God takes us out of this natural life. Like Paul in Romans 7 where he exaggerated his sin, we too can attest to identifying with Paul as one who fails each day to be fully Christ-like.

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- Back to the woman at the well – we know now the Holy Spirit served the same role in her salvation in her (Old Testament) day as he does in ours.
- He was drawing her before she even knew it and she will need his assistance to believe the one in front of her is the Messiah.
- 1st Cor 12:3 and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

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- The conversation has shifted from how deep the well is to where she has dropped her guard and is willing to “bare her soul” to this stranger.
- Jesus’ question didn’t seem all that strategic - he was simply conforming to the customs of the day where women didn’t talk to strange men unaccompanied.
- But the question he asked was very strategic because it pointed to a sensitive spot in her life – Jesus knew it and for us the Holy Spirit knows it for us. (just follow him)

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- 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.”**
- So here is where the real drama begins – she appears to have a “Lydia like” heart already and now Jesus adds more information to her thinking.
- The new information? He knows her life story!

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“Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet”

He keeps looking better – this is the way it works in all cases. The more we know of Jesus, the better he looks.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 4:9 How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me? (man) • John 4:19 I perceive that you are a (prophet). • John 4:29 Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ? (God) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 9:11 The man called Jesus. (man) • John 9:17 He said, “He is a (prophet).” • John 9:38 He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. (God)
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May God be seen in us because all that is necessary for God to be glorified is for God to be seen!

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