

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 04 Dec 2022 ..... John 1:1-18..... In the Beginning
- 2) 11 Dec ..... John 1:19-51..... Come and See
- 3) 18 Dec ..... John 2:1-25..... I Will Raise
- 4) 25 Dec ..... Luke 2:1-52..... Christmas – You Will Find
- 5) 01 Jan 2023 ..... John 3:1-36..... Everyone Who Believes
- 6) 08 Jan ..... **John 4:1-54.....But Whoever Drinks**
- 7) 15 Jan ..... John 5:1-47..... Pick Up Your Mat
- 8) 22 Jan ..... John 6:1-71..... I Am the Bread
- 9) 29 Jan ..... John 7:1-53..... He Sent Me
- 10) 05 Feb ..... John 8:1-59..... I Am the Light
- 11) 12 Feb ..... John 9:1-41..... You Have Seen Him
- 12) 19 Feb ..... John 10:1-42..... I Know My Own
- 13) 26 Feb ..... John 11:1-57..... I Am the Resurrection

**INTRODUCTION**

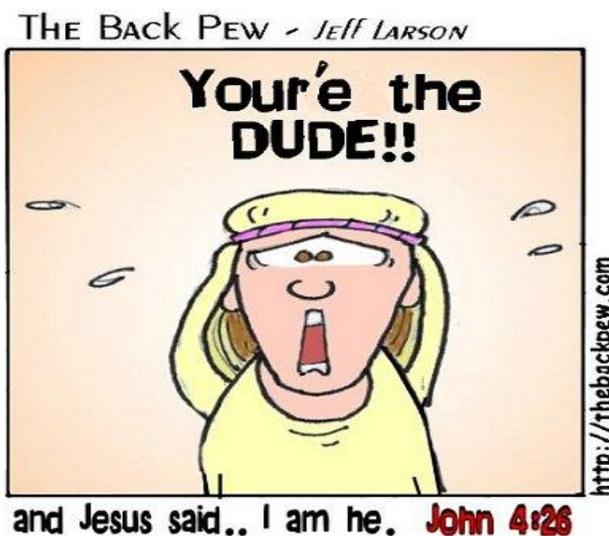
- Do we adjust our witness based on someone's past or posture?
  - ♦ What if they are homeless or a prodigal individual?
  - ♦ What if they are richer or poorer; or younger or older?
  - ♦ What if they are a different culture, gender, or race?
  - ♦ What if they are a co-worker, or the boss, or a subordinate?
  - ♦ What if they are antagonistic, belligerent, or just unfriendly?

Passage	Comments
John 4:1-9	<p><b>Going Out of Our Way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v4. Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" – a divine appointment was set</li> <li>• v6. Why was Jesus wearied and the Apostles weren't? He sure did want to sleep a lot (recall Him falling asleep in a boat while it was tossing in a storm [Mat 8:24]). Was Jesus out of shape or was He a lot older than His Apostles?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Leading a ministry is hard work.</b> Jesus had a tendency to spend a lot of time, not only with His disciples (John 3:22), but with all those who came to Him – and He would be the last one to leave, then He would spend more time in prayer in the evening to prepare for the next day ..... Mat 14:21-23</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. Jesus took the initiative to start a conversation with a woman with the intent to be a positive witness                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Or did a need for water override social protocol?</li> <li>♦ <b>Note.</b> It was not proper for a Jewish man to talk to a strange woman – especially a despised Samaritan</li> <li>♦ Are there social protocols or etiquettes we should consider? Is it proper in our era for a strange man to chat w/ a young child or teenage girl unsupervised?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:10-15	<p><b>Talking Specifics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10. Jesus started off with an enticing statement that had a benefit to her if she continued with the dialogue</li> <li>• vv11-12. The woman asked for substantiation for such a claim of being greater than her forbearer, Jacob</li> <li>• vv13-15. Jesus spoke from a spiritual perspective (i.e., 'eternal life'), knowing the woman would be thinking and responding from an earthly perspective</li> </ul>
4:16-26	<p><b>Clarifying the Truth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v16. "Go call your husband..." – Jesus either sought to stay within normal social boundaries to have the woman fetch her husband before going further with such a sensitive and a personal discussion, OR He sought to make a very powerful impact to this woman</li> <li>• v18. Jesus revealed His prophetic nature to a social outcast who had 5 ex-husbands and a boyfriend                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why would Jesus pick such a person to witness to?</li> <li>♦ If she is worthy and save-able, isn't everyone?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv19-24. The woman attempts to change the subject, and Jesus runs with it. Our witness should also be flexible with each person and not a canned routine                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Note on worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth.</b> Pentecostals/Charismatics take this concept to include emotions and even speaking in tongues. BUT God is holy, righteous, pure, blameless, and faithful in all His ways, and that is how we should approach Him - being in a right relationship with Him</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv25-26. Jesus also revealed to her His deity (a privilege only a few clearly knew about up to this point)</li> </ul>
Divine Appointments	<p><b>Did Jesus Cheat?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Being God, He was destined to visit Samaria</li> <li>♦ Being God, He knew this woman's sordid past</li> <li>♦ Being God, He knew how to best start the chit chat</li> <li>♦ ...&amp; He knew how she would respond to the Gospel</li> </ul> <p><b>Can We Have Similar Results in Our Witnessing?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God does guide our footsteps ..... Prov 3:6; Isa 42:16</li> <li>♦ ...and He puts "eternity" into everyone .....Ecc 3:11 (IOW, everyone is curious about life after death)</li> <li>♦ ... and He commands us to go and make disciples BUT He produces the growth.....Mat 28:19; 1Cor 3:7</li> <li>♦ YES, we can have positive witnessing results – BUT even Jesus didn't save everyone He witnessed to</li> </ul>
4:27-38	<p><b>Spreading the News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv27-30. The woman took what little information she had and shared it with her town – and they responded</li> <li>• vv31-38. Jesus, again, spoke from a spiritual perspective to His disciples regarding the spiritual harvest of the Samaritans, and the disciples, coming from an earthly perspective, still didn't get it</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- YES, we should adjust our presentation of the Gospel message to best fit the situation and the listeners. Some can take a direct approach, while others need a more slow & go approach – either first build a friendly relationship or establish the Bible's reliability
- The only ones we are to avoid sharing the gospel with are those who don't want to hear it – Mark 6:11 "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them."



**INTRODUCTION: John 4:39-54**

- Kudus to the Samaritans who believed after hearing a testimony from a woman with a troubling past – and they also believed Jesus without seeing a single miracle or sign
- Most Jews, on the other hand, only believed after seeing the miracles Jesus performed
- Whose belief would be stronger:
  - The Samaritans who believed on simple words (by Faith), or
  - The Jews who believed on miracles (by Sight)?

Passage	Comments
John 4:39-42	<p><b>The Samaritans Accept Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall that the woman at the well had a less than honorable reputation – but that did not prevent Jesus from wanting to give her eternal life</li> <li>• v39. The key witnessing tool this woman had to share with her town was <b>“Look what Jesus did...”</b> – and that was enough for many to believe in Him</li> <li>• vv40-41. The Samaritans “begged” Jesus to stay with them, and He spent 2 days there – and many more believed because of His Words</li> <li>• Consider this:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Some come to Christ very easy and early in life</li> <li>♦ Others need more time and info – and that’s OK</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:43-45	<p><b>“A Prophet is Not without Honor, Except At Home”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Samaritans probably would have loved it if Jesus had stayed in their town for a month or more – BUT Jesus was on a mission to first save His own people</li> <li>• v45. Jesus returns to Galilee, and He is “received” by them for all the apparent miracles they witnessed                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall <a href="#">John 2:24</a> where Jesus did not trust those who believed in Him after witnessing His mighty works, because He knew their allegiance was based on sight and not on sound faith</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Question:</b> When you accepted Christ, did you believe because you heard something or saw something?</li> </ul>
We Do Not Have Blind Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Law of Faith gives the reason why we are not able to boast about our own mental or physical abilities to get us to Heaven ..... <a href="#">Rom 3:27-31</a></li> <li>• Our faith is not a blind faith that other religions rely on, including atheism, but it has reliable evidence from recorded history and from every known field of science such as geology, archeology, mathematics, genetics, astronomy, paleontology, etc.</li> <li>• One day Faith will be obsolete when we transition to Heaven &amp; fully experience our salvation ..... <a href="#">1Cor 13:12</a></li> </ul>
4:46-54	<p><b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sign – Remote Healing of a Boy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to this point John has only recorded 1 miracle/sign by Jesus – Water turned into Wine (<a href="#">John 2:1-11</a>). BUT by this time, according to Matthew’s account at least, Jesus has developed quite a reputation for healing anyone and everyone of anything and everything!                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <a href="#">Mat 4:23</a> Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people in Galilee</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Mat 8:16</a> Jesus healed all who came to him for a healing at Peter’s house</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Mat 9:35</a> Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness while traveling through cities</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Mat 10:1</a> Jesus sent out the 12 disciples to heal every kind of diseased and sickness</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Mat 12:15</a> Jesus healed all who followed Him</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

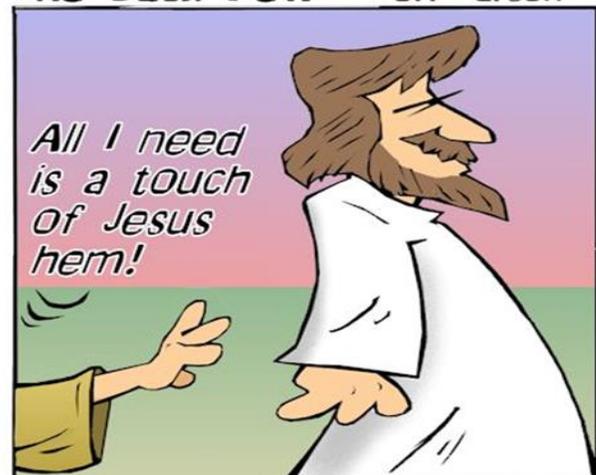
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv46-47. So, it is no wonder the royal Official had some hope for his son to be healed – IF he could entice Jesus to work just one more miracle                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Note.</b> The official left his son sick on his bed in Capernaum to travel about 20 miles to fetch Jesus. He did not send his servants, but made the trip himself to ensure success. What a loving Dad</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v48. Jesus replied rather abruptly to the Official’s begging <i>“Unless you people see signs and wonders you simply will not believe”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How would this direct the Official’s focus to see Jesus as the Giver of Eternal Life and not just a Miracle Vending Machine?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv50-53. In the end, the Official did fully believe in Jesus, along with his household – though, his faith developed over time</li> <li>• v54. What made this remote healing a sign of Jesus’ Messiahship?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Note:</b> The Jews were no strangers to miracles. Just like our day and age, they had their miracle-workers</li> <li>♦ Only an omnipotent deity could know what kind of sickness the boy had, and to deliver the right healing at the moment the command was given miles away</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
The Magnitude of Jesus’ Miracles	<p><i>“The number of the miracles which [Jesus] wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry”</i> – B.B. Warfield, <i>“Counterfeit Miracles”</i>, page 65, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1918</p>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Should we be like the Samaritans who accept Christ on His Word, or should we be like the Jews who must first see a sign?
- Recall the words of Christ to Thomas – “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.” ..... [John 20:29](#)
- Our faith is based on sufficient historical facts to allow us to make a sound decision for God

**NEXT WEEK: John 5:1-47.** Apostle John hits us with the events that surround Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath – the 3<sup>rd</sup> sign of His special calling.

**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



**My Turn, My Turn...**