

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 John 1:1-18 God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept John 1:19-51 Jesus Identified
- 3) 15 Sept John 2:1-25 Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept John 3:1-36 Salvation Offered
- 5) 29 Sept John 4:1-38 **The Power to Give Life**
- 6) 06 Oct John 4:39-54 The Power to Save
- 7) 13 Oct John 5:1-47 The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct John 6:1-71 The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct John 7:1-52 Asking Questions About Jesus
- 10) 03 Nov John 7:53-8:59 Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov John 9:1-41 Doubting Jesus' Power
- 12) 17 Nov John 10:1-42 Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov John 11:1-57 Dealing with Death

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 |
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| John 4:1-9 | <p>Going Out of Our Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" – a divine appointment was set • 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"> ♦ Leading a ministry is hard work. 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 dayMat 14:21-23 • 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"> ♦ Or, did a need for water override social protocol? ♦ Note. It was not proper for a Jewish man to talk to a strange woman – especially a despised Samaritan ♦ 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? |
| 4:10-15 | <p>Talking Specifics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. Jesus started off with an enticing statement that had a benefit to her if she continued with the dialogue • vv11-12. The woman asked for substantiation for such a claim of being greater than her forbearer, Jacob • vv13-15. Jesus spoke from a spiritual perspective (i.e., 'eternal life'), knowing the woman would be thinking and responding from an earthly perspective |
| 4:16-26 | <p>Clarifying the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • v18. Jesus revealed His prophetic nature to a social outcast who had 5 ex-husbands and a boyfriend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why would Jesus pick such a person to witness to? ♦ If she is worthy and save-able, isn't everyone? |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ♦ Note on worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth. 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 • vv25-26. Jesus also revealed to her His deity (a privilege only a few clearly knew about up to this point) |
| Divine Appointment-points | <p>Did Jesus Cheat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Being God, He was destined to visit Samaria ♦ Being God, He knew this woman's sordid past ♦ Being God, He knew how to best start the chit chat ♦ ... & He knew how she would respond to the Gospel <p>Can We Have Similar Results in Our Witnessing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God does guide our footsteps Prov 3:6; Isa 42:16 ♦ ...and He puts "eternity" into everyone..... Ecc 3:11 (IOW, everyone is curious about life after death) ♦ ... and He commands us to go and make disciples BUT He produces the growth Mat 28:19; 1Cor 3:7 ♦ YES, we can have positive witnessing results – BUT even Jesus didn't save everyone He witnessed to |
| 4:27-38 | <p>Spreading the News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv27-30. The woman took what little information she had and shared it with her town – and they responded • 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 |

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."

NEXT WEEK: John 4:39-54. Kudus to the Samaritans who believed after hearing a testimony from a woman with a sordid life style, and they also believed without seeing a single miracle or sign

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON

