

“HE KNOWS YOUR STORY”

(The Ministry Of Jesus To The Woman At The Well)

John 4:1-30, 39

“Come see a man which told me all things that I ever did.” (v. 29)

“He told me all that ever I did.” (v. 39)

Introduction

- ◆ If you’ve ever wondered about the love of God,
- ◆ If you’ve ever wondered how Jesus feels about your story,
- ◆ If you’ve ever doubted whether God’s grace is greater than your past and every sin,
- ◆ If you’ve ever felt ashamed or inferior to get plugged-in to the body of Christ,

Then John 4 Is A Word For You (Questions with Answers)

1. Why did Jesus go through Samaria, knowing that the Samaritans hated the Jews? (v. 4)
2. Why did the woman go to the well the sixth hour (v. 6) or at 12 noon, when the normal time to draw water was at 6 pm?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said in verse 13, “If you drink this water you’ll thirst again”?
4. Why did Jesus say in verse 16, “Go call thy husband”, when He knew she had no husband?
5. What changed the woman from low self-esteem, wanting to be left alone and haunting bad past memories – to going in to the city to witness to the whole city? (And what difference does it make in your life and mine today?)

Three Stages In John 4 That Reveal “He Knows Your Story”

I. The Compassion Of Jesus

Notice John 3:25: “Then there arose a question between some of John’s disciples”

Notice John 4:1 “When Jesus knew how the Pharisees had heard”

Question: What had the Pharisees heard?

Answer: They heard of all the success that Jesus was having in winning disciples.

Question: What happened then?

Answer: Jesus realized that His success created jealousy on the part of John’s followers.

- ◆ So, instead of causing a rift and division among the new believers and potential believers,
- ◆ Jesus withdraws from Judea and heads north for Galilee. (Don’t you love this about Jesus?)

So Jesus Leaves Judea For Galilee

1. He can travel along the coast.
2. He can cross the Jordan and go up through Perea.
3. He can head straight through Samaria.

Fact: Jesus knew that Jews avoided Samaria.

Fact: Jesus knew that there was long standing hatred between Jews and Samaritans.

Why Such Hatred?

1. The Samaritans were a mixed race (part Jew and part Gentile).
2. The Samaritans grew out of the Assyrian captivity of the 10 northern tribes 727 B.C.
3. They were rejected by the Jews because they could not prove their genealogy.
4. They established their own temple and worship on Mt. Gerizim.

Question: So why would Jesus go through Samaria?

Question: Why travel to _____?
(your city name here)

Question: Other roads led to Galilee, so why come to _____?
(your city name here)

One Reason

- ◆ To minister to one underserving woman!
- ◆ To do what no one else could do!
- ◆ To reveal the fullness of compassion that resides in the heart of the Savior!

Fact: She was poor, a sinner, looked down upon and groping for help.
(And verse 4 is a revelation to us all).

- ◆ That Jesus must needs to go _____.
(your city name here)
- ◆ Because Jesus must have something in mind today!

II. The Conviction Of The Spirit

In verse 5, Jesus comes to a city of Samaria called Sychar.

- ◆ The place of the interview is Sychar.
- ◆ Sychar is at a fork in the road.
- ◆ One branch goes to Capernaum, one goes to Nazareth.
- ◆ The well of Jacob is located ½ mile from the village.

In verse 6 “Jesus is weary in His journey.”

Question: Ever been weary in well doing?

Question: Ever needed some down time to recoup your strength?

Now notice a powerful truth

“It was about the sixth hour, and there cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water.” (v. 6, 7)

Fact: Clock time in John’s Gospel is computed from sunrise to sunset.

Fact: This makes the sixth hour to be 12 o’clock noon.

And here’s a revelation of human nature:

1. The usual time for women to come for water is at 6:00 pm.
2. This woman comes to draw water at noon.

Why at 12 noon?

Because she prefers to come for water when she knows that no one else will be there!

Fact: She knows what’s going on in her life.

Fact: She knows the sins of past and present.

Fact: She knows how other people feel about her.

Fact: She knows how ashamed she should be.

- ◆ So, lest anyone **see her, confront her, point out her failures, make her feel crummy of intimidate her...**
- ◆ She sneaks out to the well at a time when (to be sure) no one else is there.
- ◆ And guess who just happens to be there?
- ◆ **The one who knows your story!!!**

Let's get down to brass tacks

1. Jesus knows what's going on inside of you!
2. You may be holding in what you can't tell anybody else.
3. You might rather slip in here, slip out and have nobody notice you are here.
4. You may be carrying something upon your heart that no one else would understand.
5. You just might rather slip in, slip out and keep your distance from people.

But guess what?

- ◆ You can run, hide and hurry – but wherever you go and whenever you stop,
- ◆ Guess who's already there waiting for your arrival???

Notice the interview:

- (v. 7) "Give me a drink."
 (v. 10) "If you only knew – I would give you."
 (v. 11) "How do you have living water?"
 (v. 12) "Are you greater than Jacob?" (Who gave us the well in the first place?)
 (v. 13) "Whosoever drinks of this water will thirst again."

What's it mean?

That whoever drinks of this material water (which represents anything the world has to offer) **will thirst again!!!**

Fact: Nothing material can satisfy spiritual thirst!

Fact: Nothing of this world can quench the deepest need of the soul!

Question: What's the woman's reaction?

Answer: "Sir, give me this water." (v. 15)

Question: Does Jesus just dish it out upon request?

Answer: No. (Why not?)

Because you cannot enjoy spiritual things until your heart is right with God. (Repeat)

(I can prove it) "Go call your husband." Jesus says (v. 16)

Question: Didn't Jesus know she had no husband?

Answer: Yes. (Then why tell her this?)

1. To force her to admit her sin.
2. To force her to confess her need.
3. To force her to surface what is down deep inside.

(I discover here) That the only way the Lord can **change** a heart is to first **convict** that heart! (Repeat)

(How come?) Because until we admit we have a need, there can be no progress in spiritual things!

(The woman's response) She tries to detour Jesus by discussing the difference between the Jewish & Samaritan religions.

(How come?) Because it's easier to discuss one's own religion than to face one's own personal sin! (Repeat)

III. The Change Of The Woman (v. 39)

Question: What happens when we let God work deep down on the inside?

Question: Our testimony will flow from a heart that's been changed.

Fact: This woman who was sleeping around when Jesus met her
Was saved, changed and used of God in a remarkable way.

And I discover here

1. That God knows your story!
2. And, that story doesn't scare him at all!

Oh what a change

- ◆ She goes from a loner, ashamed, inferior plagued person
- ◆ To a woman who runs into the city to tell all about this Jesus.

Question: How can God use a sinner like this?

Answer: Because there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus!

And if the blood covers at all, it must cover of all!!

Conclusion – Altar call

Ask: Have you slipped in here today with something down deep, unknown to those around you?

Ask: Are you ashamed of something inside, covered over by a smile?

Ask: Are you willing to come to the well and let Jesus be Jesus one more time?

Ask: Will you be transparent so that Jesus can reverse the course you're on?

Why is it useless to pretend? Because Jesus knows your story!!

Amen
Bill Kirk