**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

**That You Might Know- Jesus Offers Eternal Life, John 4:1-42**

Sunday, January 15, 2023

**WE KALAHARI- Thanking God for a great weekend with great impact.** One of our students who went prayed to accept Jesus as their Lord/Savior which is awesome! **Every one of our students were able to go free of charge so for those who gave scholarships thank you for making that eternal investment!**

**SPEAKING OF ETERNAL INVESTMENTS turn to John 4, pg. 1061.** We’ve got a lot to cover this morning. **How do you know you have eternal life- that you’re right with God and when you die you’ll spend eternity with Him? That’s the question John is answering by writing down what he heard, saw, and participated in while he was following Jesus for 3 years.**

**LAST WEEK Jesus interacted with Nicodemus the “best” of society/a religiously “perfect” person, shocking him with His response, and today He’ll interact with someone society would consider the “worst”- a woman rejected by others who spends her day avoiding others.** He and shocks her as well with what He says. **Jesus got the religious leaders pretty ticked off and His conversation with Nicodemus didn’t help.** He told Nic that what Nic believed/taught was completely wrong- that he didn’t understand anything that the OT Scriptures taught. **That did not sit well so Jesus/disciples head back north.** We pick up the story there. **READ 4:1-6 Slide 2-6 Let’s go to the map and talk about a few things first.**

**GOD**

1. **JESUS AT THE WELL, John 4:1-6**
2. **Jesus Leaves Jerusalem for Galilee/“Had” To Pass Through Samaria He didn’t/most wouldn’t.**
3. Huge racial conflict- Jews hated Samaritans/vice versa; racism has always been an issue.
4. Mixed nationalities, failed to help Israel defend itself, set up a rival worship center in Samaria.

**Jesus didn’t “have to” go through Samaria, He chose to- He had a purpose for going there. Slide 7**

1. **Stops at a Well ½ Mile from Sychar at Noon.**
2. Sychar is about 30 miles from Jerusalem near OT city of Shechem- **remember Rough Crowd?**
3. Jesus is tired so He stops ½ mile outside of town at a well/disciples head into town.

**Question Slide 8-** **Why does Jesus stop ½ mile from town?** Did they not have a well in Sychar?Let’s see if John tells us why. **READ 4:7-15 Slide 9-17 Jesus “had” to go through Samaria because He “had” to talk with this Samaritan woman. SIDE NOTE:** This, by the way, is how God always works- He initiates a relationship and offers to be a person’s God through faith.Yes Jesus taught large crowds but His focus was on the individual and their need for a relationship with Him- THAT’S STILL TRUE TODAY! **So He stops ½ mile short of town at noon because there is an individual He needs to talk to.** He initiates a conversation to offer her the gift of eternal life.

1. **JESUS ASKS FOR A DRINK, John 4:7-15**
2. **Jesus Initiates a Conversation to Introduce His Gift of Eternal Life.**
3. Humanly/culturally/religiously speaking everything about this conversation would ruin His reputation..
4. Gender issue- He’s a man and is talking to a woman that’s not a relation.
5. Ethnic issue- He’s a Jew talking to a Samaritan,
6. Religious issue- a Samaritan woman could never be right before God. According to the Mishnah, Judaism’s instruction manual (Niddah 4:1) Samaritan women were continuously religiously unclean.
7. Social issue- there’s a reason why she showed up at this well at noon not in the morning or evening in town like the other women.

**Why is that?** Why walk a mile round trip at noon to get water? **AND** how did Jesus know this woman would be at this well at this time? **We know that answer- John 2, Jesus is God and knows everything about a person, including their hearts.** He knows she needed eternal life; it’s why He came. **Slide 18 So Jesus offers her living water- water that brings eternal life, but she keeps thinking of physical water from Jacob’s well.**

1. He offers her “living water”- water He says that brings eternal life.
2. She uses the word “well- phrear”; a deep pit, a hole that collects/holds water.
3. Jesus uses “pege”- flowing spring of fresh water, living water, spiritual water, eternal life.
4. Jesus says the person who “drinks” this water He’s offering will have eternal life.
5. “drinks”- pino; aorist tense- a one-time action, active voice- a choice of the will; you can know the water is available but you have to make the choice to drink it.
6. In John 3 to Nic- “water and spirit”, a work of the Holy Spirit washing us clean from our sin which gives spiritual life/eternal life.
7. Here Jesus is offering “living water” that brings eternal life- again a reference to the Holy Spirit’s work in giving us spiritual life/eternal life.
8. **How can you know you have eternal life?** By making the personal choice to receive the eternal life Jesus is offering that comes through the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Sadly, she doesn’t get the spiritual point Jesus is making and wants what He’s offering so that she doesn’t get thirsty and have to walk to this well at noon every time she wants water.** Jesus knows she’s not quite getting what He’s saying so He changes His approach. **The way He does it shows He’s not just any Jewish man.** Look what He says. **READ 4:16-18 Slide 19-21 Wow! She has to be thinking, “Where did that come from? How does this guy know my story?”** Now we know why she’s at the well at noon and not in the morning/evening when the other women are there- she’s not welcome by the other women.

1. **JESUS KNOWS HER STORY, John 4:16-18**
2. **Jesus Knows Her Life Has Been a Relational Mess**
3. Divorced 5x; 1st cent. only men could divorce, 5x was reminded that she was unloved, unwanted.
4. Maybe guy #6 will be the one who will quench her thirst for love/acceptance.
5. **Jesus Knows Her Hurt, Her Deepest Need**
6. Jesus didn’t do this to beat her down with His expectations for relationships/marriage.
7. She didn’t need Jesus to tell her she was needy emotionally, relationally, living outside God’s will.
8. He brought this up to show her He knew her, that He was God, wanted to give her eternal life.

**Here’s what’s so awesome about Jesus, and a great example for us, He met her in her sin and offered her eternal life.** Yes Jesus wants her life/our lives to change but that can only happen after He’s given us spiritual life. **Well, that truth bomb got her attention, but look what she does. READ 4:19-26 Slide 22-30** Whether she brought this up to change the subject/really interested doesn’t really matter. **The point is she “perceives” Him to be a prophet.** “Perceive” has the idea of…

1. **JESUS REVEALS HE’S THE MESSIAH, John 4:19-26**
2. **The Woman Perceived Jesus Was a Prophet**
3. “perceived”- theoreo; looking at closely, present tense- it’s becoming more/more clear.
4. “prophet”- by calling Jesus a prophet she was admitting that He was right and she was in sin
5. She’s also indicating that she believes He might be the Messiah- Samaritan’s view of prophets.
6. The only other true prophet besides Moses was the one Moses predicted would come in the future- they believed that prophet was also the Messiah.
7. If this is true for her then she’s now thinking this man talking to her is God and wants to know what is the proper place and way to worship Him- which religion worships correctly- hers or Israel’s.

**Correct worship center? The Samaritans followed only the 1st 5 books of the OT- at that time worship happened at Mt. Gerizim.** Jesus says, technically you’re wrong and the Jews are right- the entire OT is from God and God moved the worship center to Jerusalem. **Slide 31** **But His more important point is that everything is changing- worship of God is no longer about WHERE we worship, but about HOW we worship.** Jesus says, “an hour is coming, and now is”- Jesus’ arrival/ministry initiated this change.

1. **An Hour Is Coming and Now Is**
2. Jesus’ arrival/ministry on earth initiated this change in the worship of God.
3. **Slide 32** **Who is a true worshiper of God?** Those who worship Him in “spirit and truth”.
4. **Spirit-** not some outward formality, ritual, tradition or location that determines worship, it’s what happens in our inner being/our heart/**spirit**- from our inner being empowered by the Holy Spirit.
5. **Truth-** It’s based on “truth”- the truth of who Jesus is, who God is, how He works, what He teaches, what He expects all of **which is only found in the Bible**.
6. It is seen in how we live life- God’s way not our way; salvation is personal, faith is public.

**Look what else Jesus says about true worshipers- God SEEKS, deliberately pursues them. Slide 33**

1. God seeks true worshipers- seeks- zeteo; to deliberately pursue, go in search of; LIKE JESUS “HAVING” TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA- He was seeking this woman to be a true worshiper.

**You can almost hear the hope in the woman’s words as she says, “I know the Messiah is coming and He’ll tell us everything we need to know.** In her heart she’s wondering, **Is this the Messiah?** **Then Jesus, with PERFECT TIMING says, I AM the Messiah!** Everything stops…realization kicks in…and the woman just stares at Jesus- her Messiah, Jesus stares back. **A beautiful point of realization and then… READ 4:27-42 Slide 34-46 The woman was so excited to meet the Messiah that she left her water bucket and ran back to town.** The one who was the outcast/rejected by so many others is the one who brings the message of the Messiah.

1. **THE TOWNSPEOPLE BELIEVED IN JESUS, John 4:27-42**
2. **The Woman/Social Outcast Is Changed, Emboldened-** Only Jesus can bring that kind of change to a person’s heart, perspective, outlook, and reputation.
3. **The Disciples Totally Miss the Point-** like many Christians today, maybe some in our church, missing the point of why Jesus came and what He expects of us.
4. **The Townspeople Believe**
5. Many “believed”- they put their full weight of trust that Jesus was their Savior/King.
6. Initially it was based off of the woman’s testimony, but then after being with Jesus for a couple of days they believed it based on what He said.

**Last week Jesus talked to the most religiously perfect person and told him eternal life isn’t about religious perfection but about being born spiritually.** This week Jesus talks to the most religiously imperfect person and tells her eternal life is not about where you worship, but who you worship and from where that worship comes- from our inner being/heart empowered by the Holy Spirit. **In both cases it’s about us putting our full weight of trust on what Jesus says gains us eternal life- that He’s God/Savior/King and the One who gives us the “living water that leads to eternal life”. BAND?** As we close we’ll use our TAKEAWAYS to answer the question, **How can we know we have eternal life?**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **UNBELIEVER- Believe in, entrust your spiritual well-being to, Jesus and receive the living water/eternal life He offers. Believe Jesus is the Savior of the world, your Savior- from your sin.**
2. Jesus meets you where you are- not about getting better first, getting more religious, it’s about getting into a heart level relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Talk to God right now- tell Him you believe Jesus is your Savior from your sin, ask Him to forgive your sin, and tell Him you’re trusting in Jesus for your salvation.

**Mark your decision on a card.** If you have more questions mark that on a card and I’ll get ahold of you this week. **As one who has placed your faith in Christ you might be wondering, how can I tell I have eternal life?** If I have it what will be true of my life? **2 things from this interaction…**

1. **BELIEVER- Worship Jesus with your whole life.**
2. You’ll desire to worship in spirit and truth- to be with Jesus in His Word, to know Him, to be changed by Him, to live life as He commands- to pursue Him like we learned last week.
3. You’ll want others to know that you found the Savior of the world- that’s the work of the Father Jesus came to do and that we do now as His followers. EVERY TIME in the Gospels someone realizes Jesus is God/Savior they can’t keep it to themselves. Salvation is personal but our faith is to be public.

**We live in a world where our family/friends/co-workers/neighbors are living in a spiritual, emotional, and relational desert and we have the living water they need.**

**PODCAST: Did you know God is pursuing you?** Find out what Jesus says about that- John 4:1-42