

## MORE OF JESUS' PRINCIPLES FOR WITNESSING

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.**

### Summary and Historical Background

In the previous lesson, we examined the meeting that Nicodemus had with Jesus Christ to discover the principles Jesus used to witness to him. These principles are worthy for all believers to master, so they can successfully witness to the lost who are religious. In this lesson, Jesus will be witnessing to people who have little interest in spiritual matters, so He will use some methods that are different. The primary one that He witnesses to in this lesson is an immoral Samaritan woman.

The Samaritan woman came to Jacob's well for water when Jesus began His witness to her. His opening request for a drink of water quickly allowed Him to offer her living water. She wanted His living water, but Jesus skillfully dealt with the obstacle that prevented her from receiving this living water. The principles He used with her will be discussed in this lesson. They will be useful in developing principles like His that we can use in witnessing to those with little spiritual interests.

### I. The Interview with the Samaritan Woman — 4:1-42

#### A. Jesus and Samaria — 4:1-6

4:1-3 — When Jesus heard how the Pharisees felt about His growing popularity, He left Judea to go into Galilee.

4:4 — "Must" - There were two ways to go from Judea to Galilee. One could go around Samaria or go through it. Most Jews went around Samaria because the people that lived there were detestable to Jews. They had a corrupted understanding of Bible truth, but Jesus felt He "must" go through Samaria to witness to these Samaritan people. The first principle of Jesus' success in witnessing was to obey the Spirit's impulse to witness.

4:6 — The "sixth hour" would be 6:00 p.m. It was a long day after Jesus had traveled from Jerusalem to Sychar in Samaria. He was thirsty and weary so He sat down on the well that Jacob had given to Joseph his son while His disciples went into the city to get some food.

#### B. Jesus and the Woman — 4:7-30

##### 1. Jesus' approach — 4: 7-9

4:7 — The woman came to draw water for herself and Jesus asked her for a drink. He knew she would respond better if He asked her for a favor before giving her His witness. The second principle of Jesus in witnessing was to begin a conversation with a person. Do not wait for a stranger to start talking with you. It usually does not happen.

4:9 — Jesus' request was simple, but contrary to customs. It was against the Jewish custom to have any dealings with the Samaritans. It was against social custom to allow men to talk with women in public (v. 27). Jesus' approach surprised the woman and as a result it got her attention. The third principle of Jesus is to get the attention of the sinner.

##### 2. Jesus' attraction — 4:10-12

4:10 — Now that Jesus got her attention, He had to attract and hold her interest. That was His fourth principle in witnessing. How did He do it? He said, "If you knew the gift of God and who asked you for a drink, you could have asked Him and He would have given you living water." This attracted her interest, but He held her interest by holding back specific information. This made her ask questions. When the sinner asks questions, you know that you have their interest.

4:11-12 — The woman replied to Jesus in the opposite order that He had spoken to her. She asked, "How can you get this living water with no means for drawing it? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well?" She had no idea that she was speaking to the Creator.

### 3. Jesus' appeal — 4:13-15

4:13-14 — Jesus told her of the benefits of God's gift. This is the fifth principle in witnessing that Jesus used. He appealed to the woman's desire to have her needs satisfied. She would never thirst again, but would have a well of water in her springing up into everlasting life. This described the ministry of the Holy Spirit (cf. 7:37-39).

4:15 — She considered Jesus' gift to mean He was offering her some labor-saving well of water so she would no longer thirst and need to come to Jacob's well for water. So she asked for the water Jesus offered.

### 4. Jesus' authority — 4:16-18

4:16 — The sixth principle of Jesus was to expose the sins of the woman. Jesus did this by calmly telling the woman to bring her husband to Him. That was a proper request. He should do nothing to her without her husband's permission. However, Jesus knew she had no husband.

4:17-18 — When she claimed she had no husband, Jesus complimented her for telling the truth. Then He revealed her true marital status: she had had five husbands and the one she was living with now was not her husband. In this way He exposed her sin. Before Jesus could give living water (salvation) to her, she had to hate her sin and confess it. She could not be saved in her sins; she needed to be saved from her sins.

Since we do not know the sins of people like Jesus did, how can we expose the sins of people that we meet and want to win to Christ? God has given us the Ten Commandments to expose the sins of people. Ask them if they have heard of the Ten Commandments. God has given them to us to reveal our sins which will put us on the broad road to Hell. Have them answer you after you have asked these questions. Have you ever committed fornication? Hated anyone? Stolen from someone? Lied to anyone? Coveted what you or someone else had? Since you have broken at least one of these laws, you have sinned against God's law.

### 5. Jesus' answer — 4:19-24

4:19-20 — When faced with her sin, the woman tried to change the subject and talk about the place of worship, but not about her sin.

4:21-23 — Jesus told her it was not the place of worship that concerned God, but the Person of worship. He said that she did not know what she worshipped, but true worship is the worship of God. God revealed to the Jewish people through their prophets how He must be worshipped. Therefore, salvation is of the Jews. The seventh principle was to focus the woman's thoughts on the true worship of God to bring her to salvation. She must sincerely hate her sins, confess them to God and He would remove them from her record by His Son. Then she could worship God in spirit and in truth.

4:24 — God must be worshipped in spirit and in truth, i.e., the woman must worship Him with the right spirit and according to the truth that is revealed in His written word (Jn 17:17) and by His Son, the living Word (Jn 14:6).

### 6. Jesus' announcement — 4:25-30

4:25-26 — When the woman mentioned that her hope was in the Messiah, Jesus announced Himself as the Messiah. In effect, He presented Himself as the Savior that would remove her sins. This is the eighth principle that completed His witness to the Samaritan woman.

4:28 — This news electrified the woman into immediate action. She left her water pot with its water, and went to the city to tell others of her exciting experience with Jesus and His living water.

4:29-30 — She urged the men to meet Jesus and see for themselves if He were the Christ, and they accepted her challenge. Note the progression in the woman's perception of Jesus: Jew (v. 9); sir (v. 11); patriarch - greater than Jacob (v. 12); prophet (v. 19); Christ (v. 29).

**C. Jesus and His Disciples — 4:27, 31-38**

4:27 — The disciples were surprised that Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman. That was against the custom of the Jews. Jesus told His disciples, first of all, that they needed to declare the Gospel to Samaritans without prejudice. He set the example by speaking to the Samaritan men that came to Him and believed in Him (39-42). Later He commanded His disciples to witness to all people (Acts 1:8).

4:31 — The disciples' desire for Jesus to eat their food gave Him an opportunity to teach them some more spiritual truths for witnessing to all people.

4:32-34 — "My meat" - He was satisfied and strengthened as if He ate food when He did His Father's will and finished His work (Jn 17:4; 19:30). So the second principle Jesus gave His disciples was to discover the strength and satisfaction that comes from doing the will of God (4:34).

4:35 — He told His disciples that the spiritual harvest fields were already ripe and needed to be reaped now. Jesus gave them His third principle which was to witness and work without delay in the spiritual harvest fields of the world that were already ripe.

4:36-38 — The need for workers to sow the word of God in the hearts of sinners and others to reap the harvest were both needed. Jesus gave His disciples the fourth principle that both those who sow would and those who reap would be rewarded alike. Both were equally important to the Lord.

**D. Jesus and the Samaritans — 4:39-42**

4:39-42 — Many Samaritans believed Jesus was the Christ because of the woman's testimony, but more believed because of His own testimony.

**II. The Healing of the Nobleman's Son in Galilee — 4:43-54****A. The Occasion — 4:43-46**

4:43-46 — After leaving Samaria, Jesus continued on His way to Cana of Galilee. They received Him because they were curious about His miracles (cf. 2:23-25; 4:48), but this was not the kind of superficial honor He deserved (v. 44). While in Cana, he met a nobleman, a royal official, whose son was sick in Capernaum. He may have been a Gentile. If so, Jesus ministered to a Jew, some Samaritans, and a Gentile in the early part of His ministry.

**B. The Request — 4:47**

4:47 — The nobleman had heard that Jesus had come to Galilee and so he sought out Jesus and desired Him to come to Capernaum to heal his dying son.

**C. The Challenge — 4:48**

4:48 — Jesus challenged this man's faith by comparing him to those who followed Him merely to see His miracles. Jesus wanted to test his faith whether it was genuine or not.

**D. The Appeal — 4:49**

4:49 — The father again appealed to Jesus to come with him and heal his son. It was a pitiful cry for help. It proved that he had a real need and believed Jesus could help him.

**E. The Healing — 4:50**

4:50 — Jesus further challenged the man's faith by not going with him, but simply told him that his son was healed. The nobleman believed Jesus and went on his way back to Capernaum. It was a spiritual victory for him.

**F. The Results — 4:51-53**

4:51 — The sick boy was healed the very hour that Jesus told the nobleman it was done.

4:52-53 — This miracle confirmed the nobleman's faith and convinced his whole household to believe in Jesus Christ.