**Jesus’ Message and His Hearers**

John 4:1-45

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Introduction: how many of you know the name Howard Hughes? Howard Hughes live from 1905-1976. He inherited his parent’s oil drilling equipment industry. He was one of the wealthiest men in the world in his day. He got into directing and producing movies. Some of the titles were *Hells Angels* and the original *Scarface*. Later, Hughes developed a passion for aviation. He developed his aviation company. He aided in the design and the testing of the aircrafts they built. He set several aircraft speed records. In 1946 he was in plane crash. From then to the end of his life he was very reclusive. He bought portion of a production studio and never went there, not even once. He conducted all of business from a private hotel suite in Las Vegas. Near the end of his life he lived abroad. He was a man who was chasing things to rest in: Fortune Company, movie production, aviation, adrenaline, women, and money. We too, dear friends, have this same propensity. We all face the temptation to place our faith in stuff and find our satisfaction in things other than Jesus.

In our text today, we are going to meet a woman who is trying to find satisfaction and fulfillment in all the wrong places.

Main point: the gospel brings life, salvation, and worship to all who have ears to hear.

4 parts to the dialogue.

1. Jesus and His message. 1-26
   1. Jesus has left Judea and is going to Galilee. In order for Him to get to Galilee, He and His disciples must pass through Samaria. Jesus was wearied from travel and he rests beside the well as the Samaritan woman approaches to draw water.
   2. Jesus: there are couple things worth noting about Jesus here. **First, we notice that He is weary**. Why is this significant? Two reasons: one because He is not going to allow His tiredness to hinder Him from ministry and, second, because it helps us get a glimpse at His humanity. Jesus had been preaching and traveling. I am certain answering questions and ministering to His disciples while traveling. He was weary and was waiting by the well for the disciples to come back with food. **Second noteworthy thing about Jesus: He crosses barriers to minister**. The Samaritans were considered half breeds because when the northern territory (which included Samaria) was in captivity they intermarried with their captors. The southern kingdom did not intermarry. Therefore, the southern territories were highly prejudice against the half-breeds or the Samaritans. Prejudice to the point where Jews would go miles out of their way so as not even put their feet on Samaritan soil. **Jesus steps right over that cultural barrier in order to minister to this woman. That takes us to the second barrier. She is a woman. This was very far outside of the cultural norm.** It makes sense that she is taken back by Jesus asking her to give Him a drink of water. Nonetheless, Jesus is going to minister to her. How does Jesus minister to her exactly? He delivers a message.
   3. The Message. We can boil the message Jesus gives this woman down to one phrase: “I am the Messiah who brings life, salvation, and worship to all who believe. **Jesus introduces by hinting at who He is in verse 10.** He also begins to speak in spiritual terms talking about living water. Like Nicodemus, she immediately liberalizes Jesus’ statements. **Her question is kind of funny to me, “are you greater than our Father Jacob?” As a matter of fact yes. Yes I am greater than Jacob.** Jesus moves right past this question and gets to the heart of the matter. Your physical thirst will return again and again. That is an apt picture of our life without Jesus. **We will be ever thirsting and longing and we will drink from any well that we think can satisfy our longing.** The woman again takes Jesus literally. Jesus moves even closer. **Keep John 2:24-25 in mind: Jesus knows what is in man. At this point, Jesus cuts right to the heart…”Go call your husband.”** Jesus is exposing her sin. Jesus is showing her that she is desperate. Jesus is showing her that she is trying to carve out her own well like Israel (Jeremiah 2:13). Her life is like a country song, “Looking for love in all the wrong places.” **At this point the Samaritan woman takes a step toward the spiritual. She perceives that Jesus is a prophet and discusses temple worship. At the end of this brief dialogue, the samaritan woman says that she knows messiah is coming. Jesus reveals Himself fully, “I who speak to you am He.”** The hour indeed was coming and was there for the samaritan woman.
   4. Temple worship: the overarching point is that Salvation comes from the Jews namely that Jesus (the messiah) was a Jew and that the covenant people of God was the nation of Israel. God has been revealing Himself to Israel for centuries at this point. **But the time is coming and is now here, Jesus says, when believers will worship not in a specific place but in spirit and in truth. Meaning that God’s temple dwelling would be the hearts of His people and His people will worship Him in truth and from the deeper recesses of their inner being.** Remember dear ones, worship is first and foremost a posture of the heart. **Charles Spurgeon: God does not regard our voices, he hears our hearts, and if our hearts do not sing, then we have not sung at all.**
   5. Transition. Jesus and His message changed the life of the Samaritan woman. Jesus made himself known as the messiah who gives living water, salvation, and true worship to all who believe in Him. Do you have ears to hear that message this morning. The Samaritan woman did. Which takes us to the second part in the dialogue.
2. Unsaved Hearer (the Samaritan Woman). 1-26
   1. Her background. We know that she was a societal outcast. How do we know this. Two ways primarily. **She comes to the well alone**. Water fetching was a task for women. However, women would typically travel in groups. But this woman comes alone. Which suggests that she has been rejected by the other women of Sychar. Likely do to her rather promiscuous reputation. **She comes in the middle of the day.** They would not fetch water in the evening because they used what they brought back all throughout the day for washing, ceremonial cleansing, cleaning dishes, etc. so they typically went early the morning so they had the water for the days tasks. They also went early in the morning to avoid the scorching heat of the desert sun. The samaritan woman comes alone and in the hottest part of the day. **These two realities together are all the indication we need to know that she was viewed in Sychar as though she had a scarlet letter ‘A’ embroidered on her robe.**
   2. Her sin. We know that this woman lived a life of adultery and fornication. We know this from her own admission…kind of. Jesus calls her right out into the light. You have to wonder what tone was in her voice. You can almost picture this already broken woman slumping even further and through a broken voice saying, “I have no husband.” Little did she know that Jesus was about to lift her right out of her shame and her darkness into the light of believing faith and eternal life.
   3. What is the significance of this. Simply this: there is nothing you can do that can separate you from the love of Jesus. Listen! There are no lost causes. That truth is for believers and unbelievers. If you don’t know Jesus listen to me…it is not too late. You are not too far gone. You are not beyond the reach of God’s grace. If you think you are stop listening to the lies of Hell and listen to the truth of the scripture. If you will surrender to Jesus, you will be saved as the Samaritan woman was. Look to Jesus. The Samaritan woman is model for you this morning.
   4. **Christian** you may be far from God this morning. You may have made choices that have you life in the gutter right now. That need not be true. Look to Jesus and as he did with the Samaritan woman, He can lift you out of the darkness and into the light. Jesus message is not just for the sinner but also for the saint. Which takes us to third part in the dialogue.
3. Saved Hearers (the Disciples). 27-38
   1. The disciples were shocked to see Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman. None of them dared interrupt His conversation. The lady overcome with Joy, worship, and excitement leaves her water jar and likely runs all the way back to town. **The disciples are just worried about food at this point.** They want Him to eat and He says that He has food they do not know about. Again an example of a spiritual message taken literally.
   2. The nourishment of serving God. Jesus came to fulfill a mission that Yahweh sent Him on. Jesus is accomplishing that mission. Beloved, we have a mission that we have been set to. When we are called from death to life, we are called to a life of service to the king and His kingdom. **Jesus is giving us a picturesque example of what it means to lay aside ourselves to serve other and to serve the kingdom.**
   3. Gospel urgency. More specifically, Jesus is calling the disciples and all of us this morning to a gospel urgency. The field is white with harvest. There is time between plant and harvest in the literal sense. However, the spiritual harvest is now. There is a whole host of people who are dying and going to hell. We are surrounded by people who need to hear the message of Jesus. **Jesus is calling us to be nourished by obedient service and urgency for the kingdom of God.**
   4. Transition: gospel proclamation is a natural response to an encounter with Jesus. We are called to be gospel proclaimers and the samaritan woman is our model again. This takes us to part 4.
4. The proclamation of the gospel. 39-45.
   1. The samaritan woman gets back to Sychar and begins propagating the gospel and telling them all about Jesus. Through her testimony, they ask Jesus to stay with them and He preaches and proclaims the truth of who He is and why He has come.
   2. Their own proclamation. They tell the samaritan woman that they believe too. Not just on what they have heard her say, but they have done what she did—they looked to Jesus. Friends, look to Jesus.
   3. Transition: if you have looked to Jesus in believing faith, then I urge you, be like the samaritan woman. Tell you testimony. Testify to the goodness and loving kindness of Jesus. Speak the truth of the gospel.

Conclusion: Is you satisfaction in Christ? Are you like Howard Hughes looking for satisfaction in stuff, people, experiences, and fame? Are you like the Samaritan woman on her way to the well or are you like the Samaritan woman running back to Sychar from the well who had looked to Jesus and found forgiveness, life, salvation, and true worship.

Announcements.

* Food pantry
* Cathy reardon and other health issues in our church
* Wisdom as we move forward.
* Wisdom for me.
* Visitor cards.
* Wednesday study
* Small group
* Those visiting thank you and welcome.

prayer.

Wisdom, clarity, direction

That the gospel would go forth with great efficacy and the seeds would fall on good soil.

Todays message would challenge all of us to have an urgency toward evangelism.

That we would be reminded of the goodness of the gospel.