

We talked this morning about “The Journey to the Water” and how our journey was made possible because of people who helped us along the way. Naaman’s journey to the water in II Kings 5 required his own willingness first, but then the help of several other people. But it all worked together for his cleansing. And so, we are needed to help others.

We looked at the challenge of being the nameless servant girl and handing out cards and inviting people to come and see. We looked at the role of Elisha and challenged people to actually study with folks or tell them what the Bible says they must do. We talked about those servants who helped Naaman work through his issues, even after he knew the facts. Lost people need people like that. Let’s be active.

Maybe we want to do better but sort of lack the practical, everyday HOW of the matter. I hope tonight’s study helps to motivate us and give us direction. This morning we referenced the famous story of The Woman at the Well. We talked about how she was like that servant girl: she didn’t know much, but she knew the people of the village needed to go hear Jesus. Jesus started something in her that grew and led (4:39) to many people believing on Him in that area! Let’s look more into how He did that.

There were lots of reasons why it should have amounted to nothing. There were at least 5 strikes against Jesus making headway with this woman (the same reasons that cause many of us to pass on evangelistic opportunities).

1. **Uncomfortable Settings** (Walmart checkout line, bank teller window, hair salon, the movie theater, a restaurant) - We can easily deem these “less than ideal” and not try.
2. **Socio-Economic Mismatch** - Maybe the person is very poor and you worry about them taking advantage of you. Or they are very rich and you’re sure they won’t be interested.
3. **Poor Home Life** - (godless parents, unsupportive spouse, unlawful marriage) - We suspect they have little support at home and likely won’t be able to make a spiritual change.
4. **Immorality** - Perhaps we know this person is living immorally: (fornication, pornography, dirty language, adultery, unlawful marriage). They have too far to come to get to Christ.
5. **Worship Issues** - This candidate is religious-minded, but attends a denomination and we expect they will never give up instrumental music or the casual church atmosphere.

Any one of those obstacles can silence us, but Jesus was dealing with all 5!

1. **V4** - He was a Jewish man at a well near a Samaritan woman. This is socially awkward.
2. **V7-8** - Samaritans were socially inferior to Jews. And this woman was likely very poor.
3. **V16-18** - We don’t know about her parents, but her home life seemed very unstable.
4. **V16-18** - While not stated, her relationship with 6 men likely wasn’t morally upstanding.
5. **V20** - The Samaritans worshipped in a different place and in a different way than the Jews.

Because Jesus took the initiative and considered every soul to be of value, we discover several interesting and ultimately wonderful things about this Samaritan woman. She was...

- **Interactive** - **v7-9** - She could have ignored Him. But instead she chose to speak to Him.
- **Inquisitive** - **v10-12, 15** - As Jesus progressed, this woman asked to know more.
- **Perceptive** - **v19** - She was able to put the information together and understand Truth.
- **Intelligent** - **v25** - She actually knew things about God, but just simply needed some help.
- **Responsive!** - **v28-30** - She acted on the knowledge and brought a crowd to Jesus.

Look at all of that potential hidden behind the obstacles that would have stopped many Christians. And because Jesus started this conversation, **v39**, many souls were saved!

One thing is certain, “*You can never count the apples in a seed*” (Anne Stevens).

What I really want to show you in our study tonight is the manner in which Jesus engaged this woman. We have so much to learn from the Master teacher. And we can learn it. We can apply it. We can be more like Him and we can carry on His mission. Let's learn His ways:

## **7 Steps for Effective Evangelism – (John 4)**

### **1. See Opportunities Everywhere (v.4-6)**

- a. The first step is a mental one. It says that no matter where I am or what I am doing, if there is a lost person there, I will begin to look for an opportunity to evangelize.
- b. Too many of us have our (Speak of God Space) and our (Live Regular Life Space) – but let me ask: outside of church, where is your God Space? Where is the place where you are willing to talk about God? If that space has no lost people in it, you can't evangelize.

### **2. Establish Common Interest (v.7)**

- a. Jesus didn't jump right to baptism, but started the conversation casually, with a common issue between them. We could talk about the weather, kids, grandkids, even politics.

### **3. Make a Spiritual Application (v.10)**

- a. This is a critical step. He went from well water to living water. This was the intention all along. We can go from weather to God; children to Bible class; politics to the King.

### **4. Build Rapport Patiently (v.15-19)**

- a. He didn't jump to baptism or discipleship. She wasn't ready. He instead turned attention to getting to know her. We can build a relationship here before proceeding.

### **5. Suspend Just Condemnation (v.17-18)**

- a. Okay, this woman has issues. Immorality may even be an issue here. He could condemn her, but doesn't. He's teaching. We will find issues in their lives. That's why we teach!

### **6. Stay Focused on Your Goal (v.20-24)**

- a. She brings up their differences. He holds focus on the point: pleasing the Father. We can get sidetracked, but need to keep the focus on the Bible, Salvation, Jesus.

### **7. Accomplish Something Definite (v.25-26)**

- a. He didn't walk off and say, "hope to see you again sometime." He made her make a choice. Don't say what He said, but end a conversation with something that demands their commitment: "can we study tomorrow night?" "will you be there Wednesday?"

I think that last one should be the mantra for the year – accomplish something definitive. Let's make a difference in people's lives – not by telling them what to do, but by helping them understand their need and moving them in the right direction, and showing them Truth and helping them figure it out. THAT IS EVANGELISM!

- I Hope our Cards will help us move in this direction at least 5 times per month. I'm a math nerd, but 200 people means 1,000 monthly conversations per month. If 10% listen that's 100 visitors. If 10% of those are willing to have a Gospel Message Study, that's the Truth presented to 10 people per month. How does that sound?
- Where does it start? With you and me – every day, looking to help someone on the journey every person needs to take – to Christ, to the Water, to Redemption.