



Outcasts Pursuing Outcasts

John 4:22-42

One Couldn't Help But Ask

1. What gives the woman the courage to return to a village filled with people that have little to no respect for her and start sharing the story of her encounter with Jesus?
2. Surprisingly, the people in the village accept her testimony seriously enough to go to Jesus as a group to learn more about Him and what He has to say. John tells us that they not only came to Jesus but that many listened and believed in Him. To what can we attribute this dramatic response?
3. If we are outcasts because of sin, how can we play a role in saving others in a 21st century world? What could we say to them? Why would anyone listen to a sinner?
4. There are many accounts of people who have an initial change of heart and become fervent believers only to fall away again after the newness wears off. Is there any evidence that this encounter had a lasting effect? Luke 10:25-37 Are there modern examples similar to this biblical account?

Take Aways

1. Jesus changes lives. His whole purpose was to come for the lost & the broken people of the world. Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Many people at the time of Jesus had been told, and were treated as though, they were not included in the Messiah's plan to save His people. They were left out and not "good enough" according to religious leaders of their time.
2. Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. These wounds can also include the self-inflicted shame that many carry throughout their life because they are condemned by others or, condemn themselves for their behavior. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1
3. Just as Jesus had an appointment with the woman at the well and went to her so she could be saved, so too He has an appointment with us and comes to us throughout our daily life and, his gift of "living water" that will quench our thirst for relief from sin & shame will be given to us freely if we will just turn to Him, believe in Him and trust Him.

4. We should hunger for a relationship with Jesus to do God's work on earth. He tells his disciples, & hopefully us, to look out for the harvest (the Samaritans coming to Jesus to hear more) and join in the labor of leading them to Him. The work of saving them has been done at the cross. We just need to tell them of their Savior and His love.

Notes

Effect of Jesus meeting with the woman at the well

- She, an outcast, goes back to her village to share her encounter with the one she thinks, "may be the Christ". She comes to the well an outcast & returns the daughter of a king. Jesus dealt with her sin and he shame
- Her condemners listen to her testimony and decide to go to Jesus to learn more She talks about her shameful past and Jesus knowledge of it Something, the Holy Spirit, is working in her & her audience. They are no longer seeking to avoid one another. They listen and take action on her word to them
- Because of his words to them, many more believe The Samaritans, the unholy castoffs of the Jews, recognize & accept Jesus . "...we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."
- The Samaritans accept Jesus before His chosen people do.

Jesus also had an appointment, reason for meeting , with His disciples.

- They are concerned about his appetite and getting something for him to eat. His response, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."v32 leaves them thinking that someone else has fed him. He reminds/councels them "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work..." The disciples too were in need of Jesus love and discipleship.

Jesus changes people's lives

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