

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IMPORTANT

John 4:5-29

I. HE STARTED IT

- A. *There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (John 4:7)*
- B. Insiders and Outsiders.
 - 1. The contrast is striking. The two couldn't be more different.
 - 2. Nicodemus comes to Jesus. Jesus strikes up the conversation with the woman.
- C. Who Are You?
 - 1. Did you grow up in the church?
 - 2. Are you new to the Christian faith? Is this unfamiliar territory?

II. HE SEES IT

- A. *The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." (4:19)*
- B. Everyone Is Famous in a Small Town.
 - 1. In a small town everyone knows your history as well as the latest news about you.
 - 2. Knowing the history or the latest news about someone is not the same thing as "knowing" them.
- C. We Long for Love.
 - 1. People don't "choose" to become "lost." They don't "choose" to become addicts.
 - 2. They "choose" to relieve their loneliness or dull their pain with drugs, sex, or alcohol.
 - 3. Jesus sees everything she's ever done, but he sees beyond it, too. He sees her and loves her anyway.
 - 4. "Please come home!"

III. SHE SHARED IT

- A. *"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"*
- B. The First Evangelist.
 - 1. What is the mission of the church?
 - 2. Statistics indicate that half of the adult population in America is unchurched (unchurched being defined as those who have not been to worship within six months except for Christmas, Easter, weddings, or funerals).
 - 3. You have a story to tell. So tell it.
- C. He Changed Her Life.
 - 1. What made the difference?
 - 2. If you want to convert someone, don't criticize or fuss or nag them. Just love them.
 - 3. What would it be like to really notice people this week?
 - 4. It was just an ordinary day. She was just out doing errands.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Jeanette

Boatright, Dixie Borden, Marie Davis, Beverly Fowlkes, Jack Hatcher, Deborah Hendrix, Moody Sentell, Gwen Steward, Carol Webb ...

Friends – Callie Acred, Tommy Anderson, Meryl Broussard, Lawrence Carolin, Olivia Davis, Ricky Dennison, Molly Kate Duncan, Scott Flowers, Matthew Gatlin, Gail Gibbons, Jean Hansford, Dolores Hearn, Jeff Joyner, Anna McDowell, Dewaine Moncier, Jr., Sheena Moore, Jimmy Patterson, Richard Reed, Brenda Sentell, Lyle Sturgis, Jim Tyler, Allen Voss, Wendell & Joy Walker, Don Webb ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Mike Baker and family** on the death of his father, **Jim Baker**, who died on Saturday, February 16.

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Loving God, you have created us and given us life, and here in worship as we claim the joys of life and confront its difficulties, we bow before you. Thank you for those occasional insights we have into the meaning of life. Thank you for a vision of what the world might be like if we only learned to live together in love.

Forgive us for refusing to resolve problems that continue with us day after day. Forgive our lack of courage when we have a chance to witness to the good we know. Forgive our quickness to be hurt. Forgive our brittle pride. Whatever we are, we know we are not what we ought to be. Help us make decisions that have so long needed making. Help us to catch hold of life and start living it before it flows past us.

Let us be in your hands during this time of worship, and then send us out as living letters into a world that needs good news, for we pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

JOHN 4:5-29

So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"