

Celebration Services (February 16th and 17th) **John 4:27-42**
"The Effects of Encountering the SAVIOR"

Jn 4:27-30, 39-42

“ The mere worldling, who cares nothing about experimental religion, may see nothing particular in these verses. To all who desire to know something of the experience of a converted person, they will be found full of food for thought.” J.C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on John,” vol 1, pl 229

What Should One Expect Would be the Effect of a Real Encounter with Christ?

VARIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST...

- **Nicodemus**
- **The Rich Young Ruler**
- **The Samaritan Woman**

“ How do we know that a person has really been saved? ... John’s narrative highlights three signs of true salvation. ... Confession of faith in Christ ... Change in Life ... Concern for the Lost.” **Richard Phillips**, “Jesus the Evangelist,” p. 147

HER CONFESSION

What Does it Mean to “Confess” Christ?

Confess = to say the same; it is a coming into agreement

Rom 10:9-10 “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Matt 10:32-33 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” NASU

– Do These Verses Teach That Salvation is Based on the “Work” of Our Confessing?”

“ It is not true that the birth of a child of God depends upon the outward confession, as if a person needs to confess Christ before God will receive him into his family. It is rather the other way around. We confess because we have been born again.” **James Montgomery Boice**, “The Gospel of John,” vol 1, p. 307

HER CHANGED LIFE

v. 28 "So the woman left her water jar and went away into the town and said to the people, 'Come meet a man'

- **"left her water jar"**

The initial steps of becoming a Christian (following Christ) ALWAYS INVOLVE LEAVING SOMETHING BEHIND!!

“She found at the well a new heart, and new objects of interest. She became a new creature. Old things passed away: all things became new. ... A converted person no longer cares for what he once cared for. A new tenant is in the house: a new pilot is at the helm. The whole world looks different.” J.C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on John,” vol 1, p. 231

— If the Gospel hasn't Changed your Philosophy & Goals and you don't have a NEW BASIS for Living— Then You Haven't Encountered the Savior (you haven't encountered the GOSPEL!!)

- **"Went into the town"** New Found Freedoms— no longer focused on Shame or Fear of Man

HER CONCERN FOR THE LOST

v. 28 ... "Come meet a man"

“In the day of her conversion she became a missionary. She felt so deeply the amazing benefit she had received from Christ, that she could not hold her peace about Him.” J.C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on John,” vol 1, p. 232

She couldn't do apologetics yet or explain much— but she could invite someone to come and see

Was it Easy for Her to Do Evangelism?

... There Were SOCIAL BARRIERS — a woman
... " " PERSONAL " — " " with a REPUTATION
... " " AWKWARD " — she had either AVOIDED or SLEPT with many of the people of the town

There Are Always OBSTACLES to Evangelism

— Jesus Obstacle to Evangelism in that moment = Being TIRED (Jn 4:6)

“ When Jesus came to the well, he was weary. The long walk from the south to the north, the disciples’ pressing him and badgering made him a tired man. Then the woman came to the well. After the initial verbal sparring, the conversation began to pick up, and so did he. He was exhilarated in the service of God. He was feasting on the potential he saw in the woman’s life. He was so absorbed in what could happen to her that he forgot himself. Jesus found sustenance by being consumed by God’s work.” **Kent Hughes**, “John”, p. 132

Jesus was More URGENT than Weary v. 31-38

NOTE (v. 34-38)— ***"Laborers in the Harvest Field"***

... How Many Christians Have Embraced This as Their MISSION STATEMENT?

... "My food is to do the will of him who sent me" have we experienced the Life Satisfaction that comes from living to fulfill the Will of God— is there anything so fulfilling?

— How many Christians are STARVING SPIRITUALLY because they've not learned to receive the Life Sustenance of Doing Kingdom Work.

“ Some of you good people, who do nothing except go to public meetings, the Bible readings, and prophetic conferences, and other forms of spiritual dissipation, would be a good deal better Christians if you would look after the poor and needy around you. If you would just tuck up your sleeves for work, and go and tell the Gospel to dying men, you would find your spiritual health mightily restored, for very much of the sickness of Christians comes through their having nothing to do. All feeding and no working makes men spiritual dyspeptics. Be idle, careless, with nothing to live for, nothing to care for, no sinner to pray for, no backslider to lead back to the cross, no trembler to encourage, no little child to tell of a Savior, no grey-headed man to enlighten in the things of God, no object, in fact to live for, and who wonders if you begin to groan, and to murmur, and to look within, until you are ready to die of despair?” **Charles Spurgeon** (quoted by Kent Hughes in “John”, p. 132)

THE STARTING POINT OF MANY SALVATIONS

... This rather Troublesome and “Insignificant” Woman was the Starting point of a Great Revival!!

Who Would You Think Would Have a Larger Impact?

- Nicodemus— the Learned, Religious man of Influence
- This Immoral Woman

What is it That Makes You Feel Like Your Evangelistic Contribution is Insignificant?

“ Every one who has received the grace of God, and tasted that Christ is gracious, ought to find words to testify of Christ to others. Where is our faith, if we believe that souls around us are perishing, and that Christ alone can save them, and yet hold our peace? Where is our charity, if we can see others going down to hell and yet say nothing to them about Christ and salvation?— We may well doubt our own love to Christ if our hearts are never moved to speak of Him. We may well doubt the safety of our own souls if we feel no concern about the souls of others.” **J.C. Ryle**, “Expository Thoughts on John,” vol 1, p. 233