

JTE - Chapters 11-13

John 4:16-42

I. DEALING WITH SIN - JOHN 4:16-19

A. Intro

1. *People don't like to talk about sin. But we should; especially since the Good News holds the remedy for it*

B. God knows our sin

1. *It is Jesus who brings up the problem of sin in the conversation*
 - a) We can infer that other women did not want her company as she was getting water in the heat of the day.
 - b) We see Jesus' humanity in his weariness, yet we see His divinity in His omniscient knowledge regarding this woman's life and her sin.
2. *God sees all things; He has full knowledge of our sin*
 - a) God is holy and righteous; every moment we are living before the face of God
 - b) Even those who have been forgiven through the blood of Christ never-the-less suffer in this life because of their sins (Heb 12:6)
 - c) This awareness should bring a right humility (Paul's progression: 1 Cor 15:9, Eph 3:8, 1 Tim 1:15)
3. *A truer understanding of God's holiness and real understanding of the depth of our sin manifests the gulf between God and Man.*

C. Our sin separates us from God

1. *As sin separates us from God, it has to be dealt with before reconciliation can happen*
 - a) You can't preach the Gospel without dealing with sin. We see this in Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman.
2. *Three of the many ways sin separates us from God:*
 - a) It offends and repels God's holy nature (Rom 1:18)
 - b) It brings us under His judgment (Gen 18:25, Matt 10:28, Rev 20:12)
 - c) It makes us uneasy in His presence
 - (1) *Adam and Eve fled from God after the fall (also, see Luke 5:8)*
3. *A real conviction of sin is a necessary step in receiving the Gospel*
 - a) Its necessary because Jesus came to SAVE sinners (Rom 5:8)

D. Jesus came to deal with our sin

1. *He confronted the woman with her sin because loved her and gave Himself for her*
 - a) Jesus' whole life is aimed at dealing with our sin. Go to the beginning of His life... Matt 1:21
 - b) "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).
2. *Jesus took great care in handling the matter of sin with the woman*

- a) He drew it out of her, coyly bringing her to confess with her own lips
- b) We don't have Jesus perfect knowledge of other people, so we should turn to the Holy Spirit in prayer to convict us of our own sin, help us speak in love, and to bring conviction of sin to those we seek to help.
- c) There are many ways to be convicted of sin; there is ONLY ONE RESPONSE...
 - (1) *Confession > Repentance > Belief*
- 3. *The Samaritan woman did not immediately respond this way*
 - a) She tried to change the subject (4:19)
 - b) She did not yet recognize who Jesus was
 - c) Jesus was not discouraged by this response and neither should we be
 - (1) *Like Jesus did, we should turn the conversation back to Him.*

II. THE CRY OF NEW LIFE - JOHN 4:27-30

A. Intro

- 1. *He brings up her sin, she tries to divert the conversation*
 - a) Wriggling out by another way - appealing to the supposed limitations of the Bible
 - b) What do we do when someone is so determined not to consider the claims of Christ?
 - (1) *Give them the Bible!*
- 2. *What would it be like to be there when Jesus revealed himself to her?*
 - a) Something like Mary in the garden after the resurrection?
- 3. *She is the first person in the Gospel of John to be clearly born again*
 - a) He unbelief was overwhelmed by Jesus' self-revelation
- 4. *The new birth is known by its affects (John 3)*
 - a) There are three signs of true salvation highlighted in John 4
 - (1) *Confession of faith*
 - (2) *Change in life*
 - (3) *Concern for the lost*

B. Confession of faith in Christ

- 1. *Result: Confession of faith is a result of a person being born again of the Holy Spirit*
 - a) Its not the other way around; where new birth is caused by a profession of faith
- 2. *The Samaritan woman responds differently than Nicodemus*
 - a) She responds with a public confession of faith (John 4:28-29)
 - (1) *She is saying in effect, "I have found the Messiah"*

C. Change in life

- 1. *A confession by itself is not enough to demonstrate a new birth*
 - a) It must be accompanied by a changed life
 - b) 4:28 she left her water jar...
 - (1) *Ref her conversation with Jesus*
 - (2) *Wedding at Cana, Here, Lame man at the pool of Bethesda, Jacob's well...*

D. Concern for the lost

1. *She immediately felt concern for the well-being of others*
2. *She is at the well at high noon because no other women go at that time. The natural result of rejection would be resentment. But, she goes back to tell them about Jesus.*

E. “Come!”

1. *“Come!” is the great invitation of the Christian Gospel.*
 - a) John 4:16, Acts 7:3, Matt 28:6, Mark 10:21, Matt 11:28, Rev 22:17

III. THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

A. Intro

1. *The importance of being “witness” is a theme throughout John’s Gospel*

B. The woman’s witness proved her new birth

1. *One vital aspect of discipleship under Jesus is telling others what we have found*
2. *True Christians publicly admit their sin - instead of covering it and resenting the subject*
3. *The Samaritan woman’s witness had two essential elements:*
 - a) She told people what she knew about the Lord
 - b) She invited them to meet Him for themselves

C. The woman’s witness excited Jesus

1. *Most people have some interest in which they become so engrossed that their bodily needs are practically forgotten*
 - a) Jesus was consumed this way with the Gospel
 - (1) *We should be too*
 - b) Two priorities consumed Jesus’ mind and heart:
 - (1) *Acting in conformity with God’s will*
 - (2) *Completing the task God had given Him to do*
2. *We should do all to the glory of God; delighting in His will and in serving His kingdom*

D. The woman’s witness encourages us

1. *His coming brought a time of spiritual harvest to the world (4:35)*
2. *Jesus used the Samaritan woman’s success to point out how great is the reward of our witness (4:36)*
3. *We often reap where other have sown (4:37-38)*
 - a) If we witness and don’t see results, we should pray and rejoice that others may come and continue the work
 - b) 4:37 makes it clear that sometimes we reap because others sowed and sometimes we sow for others to reap

E. The woman’s witness revealed Jesus as the savior of the world

1. *Her witness did not save the people of Sychar. She led them to Jesus and He did the rest (4:42)*
 - a) Jesus is the savior of the world