“The Bad Samaritan”

John 4:1-30

8-25-2024

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How did Jesus address the need of this lost woman?
What was His approach and the content of His message?

In order to evangelize the lost, our Savior did the following:

I. He overcame <u>weariness</u> (v. 6; cp. v. 31-35)
(Jesus did not allow <u>fatigue</u> to stop Him from spreading the Gospel)

II. He built a <u>bridge</u> (v. 7-9; cp. v. 27)
(Jesus was willing to establish <u>rapport</u> by overcoming religious and cultural prejudice and other hindrances)

III. He seized an <u>open door</u> (v. 10-15)
(Jesus sought the opportunity to turn an "earthly" [natural] conversation into a "heavenly" [spiritual] conversation)

IV. He exposed the fact of <u>sin</u> (v. 16-18)
(Jesus showed the woman her <u>need</u> for salvation)

V. He taught essential <u>doctrine</u> (v. 19-24)
(Jesus corrected the woman's spiritual misunderstanding and instructed her in Biblical truth)

VI. He pointed people to <u>Himself</u> (v. 14, 25-26)
(Jesus showed Himself to be the source of salvation - John 14:6)

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INTRODUCTION:

John moves from demonstrating a religious man’s need for salvation (John 3) to a sinful woman’s need for salvation (John 4).

We have all heard of the Good Samaritan; Today I would like to speak to you about “The Bad Samaritan” and of how Jesus Christ saved her soul and her life.

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

"The Scripture hath concluded all under sin" (Gal. 3:22).

See Romans 3:10 –f
Note the universality or all-inclusiveness of sin. In these verses: "all" (v. 9); "none" (v. 10); "none...none" (v. 11); "all...together...none...not one" (v. 12).

Total depravity -
Eccl. 9:3 - This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead."

Is. 1:5-6 - "Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it: but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: and they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

- God speaks of unsaved man as being "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1; cp. Col. 2:13).
- Man's heart is blind and he exists in spiritual darkness (Eph. 4:18; 5:8; Col. 1:13).
- The question is asked in Job 14:4 - "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" No one.
- A sinner from conception: "Behold I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Ps. 51:5).
- A sinner at birth: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Ps. 58:3; cp. Is. 48:8).
- "The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21; cp. Gen. 6:5).
- God cannot be blamed for man's sin. When He created man "in His own image," His creation was good (Gen. 1:27, 31).
- Solomon said: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Eccl. 7:29).

"He who doubts total depravity had better study himself" --Spurgeon

The Bible teaches that all are sinners; All are depraved.

Depravity means:

a. That every man has the same potential to fulfill even the vilest of sins (Rom. 1:18ff; 3:10-18)
(Every man's heart is the same - Jer. 17:9)

b. That by God's standards, there is no spiritual good dwelling in natural man (Is. 64:6; Rom. 3:9, 7:18)
When the unsaved do right, it is for selfish purposes, not for God's exclusive glory (Mt. 6:5; II Tim. 3:4).

c. That the corruption of sin permeates and extends to every part of man's internal being.
1) The mind (Rom. 8:6; I Cor. 2:14, 4:4; Ti. 1:15)
2) The conscience (Ti. 1:15)
3) The will (Jn. 8:34; Jer. 13:23; Rom. 7:18)
4) The heart (Jer. 17:9)
5) The spirit (II Cor. 7:1)
6) The emotions
The unsaved are completely without "agape" love, which is the basic motivating factor to do works that please God (I Jn. 4:7-8, 11-19).

d. Depravity means that an unsaved man has no possible means of salvation or recovering within himself (Eph. 2:1, 8; Mt. 19:25-26).

Depravity refers to man's total inability to spiritually rehabilitate himself and become pleasing to a Holy God.

No act of the will of man (by itself) can change his nature or relationship to God.

This description of depravity is us! We are all depraved. Yet Christ loved us and saved us. Do we care about others who also are trapped in sin? Do we point them to the sin solution?

Jude 1:20-23
But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, [21] Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. [22] And of some have compassion, making a difference: [23] And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Read "Who Cares?" by General William Booth

Can you hear the cry of multitudes, pleading as it were for help, for truth, for life?
--The cry of the Lost (Ezek. 34:4; Lk. 19:10)
--The cry of the Blind (II Cor. 4:4; Acts 26:18)
(blind as to their need, destiny, the love of God, the urgency of salvation)
--The cry of the Condemned (Jn. 3:18)
--The cry of the Slaves (II Tim. 2:24-26)

Christian, listen to the cries; listen to the four calls to evangelism
THERE IS A CALL FROM ABOVE (Mk. 16:15; Ezek. 3:17-18; 33:1-11)
THERE IS A CALL FROM BENEATH (Lk. 16:19-31)
THERE IS A CALL FROM WITHOUT (Acts 16:6-10)
THERE IS A CALL FROM WITHIN (Jn. 4:24-30; Rom. 1:14-17)

Song: "Jesus lover of my soul"

How did Jesus address the need of this lost woman?

What was His approach and the content of His message?

In order to evangelize the lost, our Savior did the following:

I. He overcame weariness (v. 6; cp. v. 31-35)
(Jesus did not allow fatigue to stop Him from spreading the Gospel)

V. 6

Jesus was weary, but His zeal for doing the will of the Father (v. 34) and His burden for souls (v. 35) kept Him going.

"Be not weary in well doing . . ." (Gal. 6:9)

We need to overcome laziness and other distractions.

Laziness and preoccupation with the physical needs of life often keep us from sharing the gospel.

If you know anything about the "Titanic," you know much of what took place 87 years ago, when the ship that even God couldn't sink, DID sink. Of the 1,528 people who ended up in the icy water, only six were rescued. But did you know that one of those six was actually saved twice that night?

His story is an inspiring reminder that there's more to life than mere survival.

To tell this man's story, though, I have to first tell you about another man, a Scot named John Harper. Harper, a minister of the Gospel, boarded the Titanic with his six-year-old daughter, Nana. He planned to travel to the Moody Church in Chicago, where he'd been invited to preach for three months. When the ship struck the fateful iceberg and began to sink, Harper made sure his daughter was placed into one of the lifeboats. He then began what would be the last evangelistic work of his young life.

As the freezing waters began to fill the ship, Harper was heard shouting, "Let the women, children and the unsaved into the lifeboats." Survivors reported that Harper took off his own life jacket and gave it to another man. "Don't worry about me," he reportedly said, "I'm not going down, I'm going up!"

When the ship began to sink, more than 1,500 passengers jumped or fell into the icy waters. As they gradually drowned or froze to death, Harper was seen swimming from one passenger to another, pleading with them to accept Christ.

Only six of the 1,500 people struggling in the water were later rescued, including a man who later identified himself as Harper's last convert. This young man had climbed up on a piece of debris.

Harper, who was struggling in the water near him, shouted out, "Are you saved?" "No," the man replied. Harper then shouted the words from Scripture: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The man did not answer, and a moment later he drifted away on the waves.

A few minutes later, the current brought the two men back together. Again Harper asked, "Are you saved?" Once again, the answer was "no." With his dying breath, Harper shouted, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He then slipped under the waves for the last time.

Then and there, the man he had witnessed to decided to turn his life over to Christ. Four years later, at a Titanic survivors meeting in Ontario, Canada, this man tearfully gave his testimony recounting how John Harper had led him to the Lord. I don't need to tell you that this dramatic story never made it into the movie. We live in a culture that seems to be more interested in fictional stories of romance, illicit sex, and priceless jewelry than in the real romance between God and His people.

When the subject of the Titanic comes up, tell your friends the story of the young Scottish minister who witnessed to Christ with his dying breath. And make sure your kids know the story a well. John Harper reminds us of a great lesson, the secret of the ages: that there's more to life than mere survival.

[The information for this BreakPoint commentary came from the book "The Titanic's Last Hero" by Moody Adams (The Olive Press, 1997). The testimonies in this book
were originally compiled in 1912 by John Climie of Scotland.]

II. He built a <u>bridge</u> (v. 7-9; cp. v. 27)
(Jesus was willing to establish <u>rapport</u> by overcoming religious and cultural prejudice and other hindrances)

a) She was a <u>woman</u> (v. 9; cp. v. 27)
(a <u>social</u> obstacle had to be overcome)

b) She was a <u>sinful</u> woman (v. 16-18)
(a <u>moral</u> obstacle had to be overcome)

Women normally came in the morning to draw water. However, this woman may have been too ashamed to draw water with the other women, because of her sinful reputation.

c) She was a <u>Samaritan</u> woman (v. 9)
(a <u>cultural</u> and <u>religious</u> obstacle had to be overcome)

The Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies.

--The Samaritans were viewed as <u>half-breed "dogs</u>."

--The Samaritans had a rival <u>temple and place of worship</u>.

Therefore the Jews had "no dealings with the Samaritans" (v. 9).

Beware of isolating yourself from those of other religions. They need to hear the truth, and may only hear it from you!

III. He seized an <u>open door</u> (v. 10-15)
(Jesus sought the opportunity to turn an "earthly" [natural] conversation into a "heavenly" [spiritual] conversation)

Note how Jesus changes the subject from literal water (H2O) to spiritual "living" water.

He moved from the natural to the supernatural, from the known to the unknown, from the physical to the spiritual.

Example of subjects that naturally lead into the subject of salvation:

1) Death
2) Church
3) Moral crisis in America
4) Almost anything - if you look for the opportunity

V. 15

Even though the woman wanted the water about which Jesus spoke, there were some facts she needed to understand first.

She needed to realize:

a) The <u>spiritual nature</u> of the water Jesus spoke of (She, like Nicodemus Jn. 3, was thinking in physical terms, not spiritual)

b) Her need for such water

IV. He exposed the fact of <u>sin</u> (v. 16-18)
(Jesus showed the woman her <u>need</u> for salvation)

Before anyone sees their need for the doctor, they must see that they are sick!

Jesus is the Great Physician (Mt. 9:12).

Romans 3 shows man his sinfulness.

V. He taught essential <u>doctrine</u> (v. 19-24)
(Jesus corrected the woman's spiritual misunderstanding and instructed her in Biblical truth)

Jesus taught:

a. The exclusiveness of <u>one salvation</u> (v. 22b)

"Salvation is of (from) the Jews" -

How?

1) The Jews were given the "oracles of God" - Rom. 3:2 (the Word of God).

2) The Jewish race was the vehicle through which Christ came.

b. The nature of <u>God</u> (v. 23-24a)

c. The means of man's approach to God (v. 24b)

1) "Spirit"
(the way to salvation is <u>spiritual</u> -
John 3:1ff)

2) "Truth"
(the basis for salvation is the <u>Bible</u> -
John 17:17; Rom. 10:17)

Jesus also taught her about true worship:

How did Jesus describe true worship?

1. True Worship is <u>NOT CONFINED</u> to a Place (v. 20, 21)

2. True Worship is <u>SINGULAR</u> in its Source (v. 22)

3. True Worship is <u>SOUGHT</u> by the Father (v. 23)

4. True Worship is According to <u>SPIRIT</u> and <u>TRUTH</u> (v. 24)

VI. He pointed people to <u>Himself</u> (v. 14, 25-26)
(Jesus showed Himself to be the source of salvation - John 14:6)

Paul preached only "<u>Christ</u> and Him crucified."

In your witness, focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

a. Jesus told the woman <u>who He was</u>
(He is the Messiah, the Christ - v. 25-26)

b. Jesus told the woman <u>what He gives</u>
(He is the source of "living water" - v. 14)

Cp. John 7:38; Rev. 21:6, 22:17.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS:

In Christ's discussion with the woman:

a. He provoked <u>thought</u>
(He gave the woman something to really think about -- Beware of "easy believism")

b. He <u>asked questions</u>
Questions have a way of quickening the conscience. Jesus often taught truth by asking questions that led to the answer.

b. He <u>allowed her to speak</u>
(He did not preach a sermon -- Beware of monopolizing the conversation without finding out where the other person is coming from)

c. He demonstrated <u>graciousness</u>
(His manner was unabrasive; He made her feel relaxed in His presence -- Beware of being mechanical and cold)

The Starfish

While walking along a beach,
a man saw someone in the distance leaning down,
picking something up and throwing it into the ocean.

As he came closer, he saw thousands of starfish
the tide had thrown onto the beach.
Unable to return to the ocean during low tide,
the starfish were dying.
He observed a young man picking up the starfish
one by one and throwing them back into the water.

After watching the seemingly futile effort,
the observer said, "there must be
thousands of starfish on this beach.
It would be impossible for you to get to all of them.
There are simply to many.
You can't possibly save enough to make a difference."

The young man smiled as he continued to pick up
another starfish and toss it back into the ocean.

"IT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THAT ONE HE REPLIED!