

## **Practical Evangelism 2019 Pt. 4**

**Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, February 24, 2019**

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**Main Theme** – A multipart series concerning evangelism and practical application & techniques.

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### **WORSHIP & PRAYER**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Potluck Supper – Taking place TODAY following the AM Service
- Haiti Informational Meeting – Immediately after Service (Interest)
- Children's Church Worker Training & CORI Checks – Potluck Supper
- Men's Min/Breakfast – Saturday Morning, March 9 from 9–10:15am
- Women's Ministry – Tuesday Evening, March 12 (from 6:30–8:30pm)

### **MORNING OFFERING**

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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### INTRODUCTIONS

As always it is wonderful to see you. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready (John 4) and be prepared to take some notes, as we continue our series on Practical Evangelism.

### SETTING THE STAGE

We often think of Jesus' ministry in terms of His ministry before the **MASSES**. i.e., Jesus preaching the Gospel to the multitudes or working wonders on a colossal scale. But some of Christ's most precious and impactful ministry took place in the midst of one-on-one connections with the **INDIVIDUALS** He encountered.

**KEY** – Since most of our personal ministry is **NOT** before the masses but with individuals (as we encounter people in the midst of life and living), it is beneficial for us to consider such instances in the ministry of Christ. The believer who wants to be an effective witness for Christ must consider the example of Christ Himself.

This morning I want to consider a significant portion of the Gospel of John (chapter 4). Contained within is one of my **FAVORITE** one-on-one interactions in the ministry of Jesus Christ. i.e., We are going to consider Jesus and the Woman at the Well. We will analyze much of John 4 one segment at a time (particularly through the lens of effective evangelism).

LET'S DELVE IN.

### TO THE WORD PT. 1

#### John 4:1–3 (NIV)

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

**NOTE** – Jesus knew that His ministry would end violently at the hand of these religious leaders (according to the sovereign plan and purpose of His Father). Until that appointed time, He would live **CAREFULLY** (herein withdrawing from the Pharisees of S. Judea to the northern region of Galilee).

## TO THE WORD PT. 2

### John 4:4–6 (NIV)

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

**KEY** – This text sets some CONTEXT for Christ's encounter. Allow me to identify a few key items:

**NOTE 1** – Jesus took the shortest route from Judea to Galilee, though it was a road that the Jewish people tended to AVOID. Jews often took the longer route in order to AVOID the Samaritan people.

### Q. Who were the Samaritans and why did the Jews reject them?

**FYI** – In 722 B.C. the Assyrian Empire conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians killed many Jews and deported others, yet they left a sizeable portion of Jews alive in the region. Moreover, they transported many non-Jews into the conquered territory. These groups (remaining Jews and newly-introduced non-Jews) intermingled to form a mixed race (i.e., the Samaritans). The Jewish people would always view these Samaritans as HALF-BREEDS and treated them with contempt. So much so, the Samaritans retreated from the worship of God at Jerusalem and worshipped at Mt. Gerizim in their own territory. Racial prejudice and animosity!

**NOTE 2** – The text makes it clear (v. 4) that the area Jesus came into had connections to the great Patriarch Jacob. These verses refer back to Genesis 48:22, where Jacob bequeathed a section of land to Joseph that he had purchased from the sons of Hamor in Genesis 33. **FYI** – This is also near the area where Joseph's bones were buried when the children of Israel came out of Egypt in the days of Moses. This will play some role in the upcoming dialogue.

**NOTE 3** – Jesus was weary at the outset of this conversation. In His humanity, God the Son knew physical weakness and need. But He NEVER let that get in the way of His ministry (being used of God). We can learn much from His example in this area!

**NOTE 4** – I have heard preachers make points based on the timeframe given (NIV & many English translations): NOON. Many claim that this indicates that she was an outcast (looking to avoid people), for no one came to draw water in the heat of the day. This time may be correct – and it may NOT be!

**FYI** – The underlying Greek (retained in some English translations) doesn't say 'noon' but 'at the sixth hour.' If John was using the JEWISH means of counting a day, noon would be correct. Yet if John was using the ROMAN means of counting a day (IMO evidence is in that direction), it should be rendered 6pm (as in some translations). Since we CANNOT be sure of the time of this event dogmatically, I will REFRAIN from making any observations based solely on the time.

## TO THE WORD PT. 3

**KEY** – However, the fact that she was an outcast among her people is evident in the next text...

### **John 4:7–8 (NIV)**

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”

8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

**NOTE 1** – Women generally came in groups to collect water. It was the SOCIAL highpoint of the day, when ladies would gather to talk with friends. That this woman came alone AND that she was about to draw water alone indicates that she was FRIENDLESS and ALIENATED.

-IF it was noon, she was coming in order to avoid the crowds (outcast)

-IF it was 6pm, the other women wanted nothing to do with her (outcast)

**NOTE 2** – Notice WHO initiates the dialogue. It was Jesus! (v. 7b)!

**FYI** – For a Jewish man to speak to a woman in public, let alone a despised Samaritan, was a breach of EVERY social protocol and custom. Moreover, rabbis/teachers did not hold conversation with women of ill repute! Yet Jesus reached out to her! He sought her out...

-Note His willingness to go where she was (He traveled through Sam.)

-Note His willingness to relate to people outside of His ‘expected’ orbit

**APP** – We have to be willing to go to where people are and deal with people who may be nothing like us in order to win them to Christ.

**Q. If Jesus was willing to go and cross soc./cultural barriers to reach the lost, how can we not?**

**NOTE 3** – Earlier in John 3 Jesus had a one-on-one interaction with a leader named Nicodemus. It MADE SENSE for Jesus to interact with Nicodemus. He was a man; a respected ruler; a Jew; a moral leader; a learned man who sought Jesus out. It made NO sense for Jesus to interact with this woman. She was a woman; an outcast among her people; a Samaritan; an immoral, irreligious and unlearned woman. Yet Jesus reached out to them both!

**KEY** – This demonstrates that wonderful reality of John 3:16...

### **John 3:16 (NIV)**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**APP** – Effective evangelists never lose sight of the truth ‘God loves everyone!’ IT COMPELS US!

## TO THE WORD PT. 4

**KEY** – Jesus’ request BEGINS an incredible back-and-forth dialogue worthy of some analysis:

### John 4:9 (NIV)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans [lit. ‘no one uses dishes Samaritans have used’])

**NOTE** – Surprised and curious, the woman could NOT understand how Jesus would dare ask her for a drink. Jews—again—did not relate with the Samaritan people, etc. Moreover, rabbinic law stated that Samaritan woman were considered as continually menstruating and thus UNCLEAN. Therefore, a Jew who drank from a Samaritans vessel would be deemed unclean themselves! But Jesus asked for a drink! He sought to relate to/connect with her!

**KEY** – Herein Jesus begins to advance the conversation...

## TO THE WORD PT. 5

### John 4:10 (NIV)

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

**NOTE 1** – Having captured her attention, Jesus FURTHER STIMULATES her curiosity with these remarks. It was as if He said, “Your shock would be much greater if you really knew who I am. You, not I, would be asking for a drink!” This would cause her to question THREE things:

- 1) Who is this man?
- 2) What ex. is the gift of God?
- 3) What is this living water He speaks of?

**APP** – We see Jesus arousing interest by his willingness to connect and words (Jew/Gentile)

**APP** – We see Jesus using a common situation to introduce spiritual matters (drawing water)

**NOTE 2** – The OT background for the term ‘living water’ speaks of spiritual cleansing, life, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit (cf. Is. 1:16–18; 12:3; 44:3; Ez. 36:25–27). Jesus used the woman’s need for physical water as an OBJECT LESSON for deeper spiritual needs.

**APP** – We see Jesus using the natural as an object lesson for a supernatural truth (water/H.S.)

## TO THE WORD PT. 6

### John 4:11–12 (NIV)

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

**NOTE** – She MISUNDERSTOOD the living water and thought only of the water from the well. Since Jacob’s well was so deep, how could He get this living water? She could NOT conceive of one greater than Jacob, who was her famed ancestor and patriarch of the people of God.

**APP** – We cannot expect a completely mature response from a person ignorant of spiritual matters. Jesus recognized the spiritual condition of His audience and met them where they were. We must be willing to do the same! Be aware of your audience!

## TO THE WORD PT. 7

### John 4:13–14 (NIV)

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**NOTE** – Jesus begins to UNVEIL the truth of his enigmatic (mysterious) statement. The water from Jacob’s well could sustain only for a time. But the ‘water’ He provides offers the CONTINUAL satisfaction of spiritual needs. i.e., Continual cleansing, renewal and life! In fact, the one who drinks from this water will have within him a spring of life-giving water (cf. John 7:38–39).

## TO THE WORD PT. 7

### John 4:15 (NIV)

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

**NOTE** – The woman did NOT grasp the depths of Jesus’ statements. She did understand the use of water as an object lesson for deeper spiritual truths. Thus, Jesus—masterfully—redirects the conversation.

**APP.** There is a ‘FLUIDIC’ nature to evangelism. There is NOT always a script or a formula you can follow. There is a give and take/ebb and flow. Listen and be attentive! If you are not having success in getting through one way, TRY another. We must be willing to be FLEXIBLE in our discussions and find ways to connect with people!

## TO THE WORD PT. 8

### John 4:16–18 (NIV)

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

**NOTE** – Since she was not able to comprehend His statements re: the living water, Jesus begins to deal with her most basic problem: her SINFULNESS. Her marital history was NO mystery to this Stranger. Jesus CONFRONTED her with her life of sin and need of cleansing. There is a time to expose sin for what it is – Jesus did not shy away!

**APP** – Again, there’s a time to identify sin & the consequences thereof. EXPOSURE is necessary!

## TO THE WORD PT. 9

### John 4:19 –20

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

**NOTE 1** – She puts forth an INTELLECTUAL QUESTION. The Jews worshipped God in Jerusalem. The Samaritans held Mt. Gerizim of their territory as the sacred place of worship. **Q.** Who was correct?

**NOTE 2** – I wonder about her words herein. Was she looking for insight into centuries-old question OR was she looking to change the topic (feeling guilty and exposed by Jesus’ insights into her sinful life)? This might have been an attempt to redirect the conversation!

**KEY** – Either way, Jesus took the time to honestly ANSWER her question. He ALLOWED for this redirection in the conversation (again the FLUIDIC nature of evangelistic back-and-forths).

## TO THE WORD PT. 10

### John 4:21–24 (NIV)

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

**NOTE** – Jesus noted there was NO reason to debate places of worship (Jerusalem v. Gerizim) since both would become obsolete through His ministry. A) God is a spiritual being. What He longs for is NOT ritualistic worship but the spiritual expression of His people. B) Also, God transcends space: He is NOT bound to a location on this earth. Thus, those who worship Him in spirit must also worship according to the truth of who /what He is.

**APP** – Jesus responded to her redirection and directed her to the reality of God’s nature/truth!

## TO THE WORD PT. 11

### John 4:25–26 (NIV)

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

**NOTE 1** – The Samaritans EXPECTED a coming Messiah or Christ. This woman longed for the day when this figure would burst onto the world scene bring revelation from God (explaining the ways of God fully)!

**NOTE 2** – And Jesus does something INCREDIBLE herein. He unveils that He is the long-awaited Messiah/Christ. If you know anything about His ministry, you know that He habitually RESISTS connection with that title (for reasons that go beyond our time today). He works continually to veil the truth that He was the long-awaited Christ. But here He makes Himself known. He OPENS HIMSELF UP to her fully!

**APP** – This is NOT just the sharing of truth. It’s the sharing of Himself (self-exposure/revelation).



## TO THE WORD PT. 12

### John 4:27–30 (NIV)

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

**NOTE 1** – The disciplines did NOT ask about Jesus’ conversation with this woman, but I am sure that they WANTED to. Note the surprise they had (v. 27a). They took note that Jesus was violating every social rule in even speaking with her!

**NOTE 2** – The woman, excited by Jesus’ statement, left and went to the village. Notice that she left her empty water jar! She had found something of MORE VALUE than the water she originally went to fetch!

**NOTE 3** – Her statement, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” was sure to STIR some interest in the village. It would stir interest with those who were longing for the Messiah. It might also stir interest with those who were partners in her life of sin!

**NOTE 4** – Jesus had such an impact on this woman she was EAGER to share the news among the townspeople whom she had previously avoided because of her reputation! Her witness and candor regarding her own life impressed the town enough to GO AND SEE Jesus for themselves!

**APP** – ANYONE can be a witness for Jesus Christ. ANYONE can testify and EVERYONE can invite!

## TO THE WORD PT. 13

### John 4:31–34 (NIV)

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” 34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

**NOTE** – Just like the Samaritan woman’s misunderstanding of water, Jesus’ own disciples thought only of literal food (v. 33). Doing the will of God (sharing the Gospel in service to the Father) gave sustenance and satisfaction BEYOND any earthly food!

**APP** – How life-giving it is to serve the Lord! How life-giving to win someone to Christ!

## TO THE WORD PT. 14

### John 4:39–42 (NIV)

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

**NOTE** – What we see herein is a revival among the Samaritans. This is interesting! Consider!

- It is interesting because it contrasts tragically to the ultimate Jewish rejection
- It is interesting because it is the first example of cross-cultural ministry in the NT
- it is interesting because this revival is the OUTFLOW of Jesus ministry to one person
- It is interesting because this revival is the OUTFLOW of some "effective evangelism"

### **KEY 1 – Jesus was willing to engage in elements of E. E.**

- Jesus confronted (exposed this woman's sinfulness)
- Jesus served (willingness to provide her living water)
- Jesus persuaded (He sought to answer her questions)
- Jesus related to her (willing to go & to connect w. her)

### **KEY 2 – She was willing to engage in elements of E. E.**

- She invited the town to come and see Jesus for themselves
- She testified to the reality of her encounter with Jesus Christ

### **APP 1 – And these are things that we can do! We can all work to...**

- 1) CONFRONT** – Confronting people with the reality of their sin and its consequence(s)
- 2) PERSUADE (INT.)** – Contending with the Q's people have in a sincere, respectful 'manner'
- 3) OFFER TESTIMONY** – Sharing how Jesus Christ has operated in your life and on your behalf
- 4) INVITE**– Inviting people to a context where they can encounter Christ and 'hear' the Gospel
- 5) SERVE** – Operating as a vehicle of kindness, love and compassion (meeting felt ph./sp. need)
- 6) RELATE** – Engage and build connection with the lost; offer not only the Gospel but ourselves

**APP 2** – It is likely you are inclined (sp. gifted) in one of these areas ('predominant inclination')

**APP 3** – Effective evangelists may have to be flexible and tap into more than one element of E.

## CONCLUSIONS

**KEY** – I want to close with the words of Christ to His apostles in this context:

**John 4:35 (NIV)**

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

**APP** – Open your eyes! There is a harvest out there! Let the Lord use you to bring them in! May the principles shared today aide you in your service as a witness, ambassador, representative and missionary!