

WALKING/BREAKING THROUGH WALLS

John 4:1ff

ATTENTION:

- Life can turn on a dime.
 - A phone call, an unexpected text, a chance encounter, a new insight, a fresh look, etc. and suddenly you find yourself traveling down a new road.
 - That's life lived every - day between birth and death.

ATTUNE:

- That was true in the life of a woman who met Jesus in Sychar on a hot day, at noon.
 - He was worn-out from His travels, on His way to Galilee.
 - Jesus sat down near a well to catch His breath.
 - The disciples have gone to McDonalds - Big Mack & fries.
- We don't know her name, but her life *turned on a dime* as she meets Jesus.

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

"Give me a drink," Jesus said to her,

- It wasn't the normal time, and it was unusual for a woman to come to a well alone. But this woman was different.

BODY:

- Jesus Walks Through 4 Walls To Reach Out To This Woman
 - Religious wall - Gender wall - Racial wall - Moral wall.
 - They are genuine, solid & high - Jesus would not be stopped.
 - Jesus was all about people! All People!
 - If you breath air God loves you and Jesus pursues You!

JESUS CONNECTS!

- As Jesus begins this trip - *v. 4 He had to travel through Samaria.*
 - Maybe an insignificant point of reference **BUT** probably not!
 - Suffice it to say that Jews of Jesus day absolutely avoided Samaritans and Samaria!
 - There hatred of each other had festered for centuries and had only gotten worse with the years!
 - Samaritans = Religious heretics and Racial half-breeds.
 - A feud that began with North/South (Israel/Judah)
 - Battle for power - control, View of God practice of idolatry - place of worship
 - Jews would go miles to not set foot in Samaritan land and traverse the Jordan River twice, etc.

- BUT NOT JESUS! *v. 4 He had to travel through Samaria*
 - Jesus was not going to let a centuries long hatred and feud stop Him from establishing the goals of His ministry!
 - Jesus **INTONATIONALLY** went through Samaria, this woman was exactly who He was looking for.
 - He knew she would come to the well & she was on time!
 - Every detail. is part of the working of God's plan.
 - The woman isn't looking for Jesus. All she wants is water. *But Jesus is looking for her.*
 - You have to go to Samaria if you want to reach Samaritans.
 - Jesus intended to save this woman so he went to her.
 - Like Jesus we must not let society tell us who to love!
 - The woman did not come to the well seeking the Messiah, but He came to the well seeking her.

JESUS COMMUNICATED!

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water. (v. 10).

- There is a triple surprise in this passage:
 - 1st that a Jew would speak to a Samaritan.
 - 2nd that a man would speak to a woman/stranger in public.
 - 3rd that a Jew would drink from a Samaritan's cup.
 - Asking her for a drink of water was unheard of
 - Rabbis taught = sin to touch utensil a Samaritan touched.
 - To touch a Samaritan = make a Jew unclean!
- BUT He speaks to her and offers her *living water*
 - *I've got water you've never dreamed of before.*
 - He is leading her step by step to saving faith.
 - He leads her to see her need & reveals who he is,
 - Then He offers *to quench her thirst once and for all!*
- Jesus returns again and again to the central issue:
 - If you knew who I was. *I'd give you water leading to eternal life*

JESUS CONFRONTS! v. 16-18

¹⁶ "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here." ¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," she answered. "You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. ¹⁸ "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

- Is Jesus being insensitive - Is he trying to embarrass her?
 - Jesus loved her = without conviction of sin there can be no repentance, forgiveness, conversion.
 - Until we come to grips with our sin, we cannot be saved!
- Does Jesus love this woman?
 - He cannot help her until she accepts her need for rescue!

JESUS CONVERTS! v. 23-26

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour 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, because salvation is from the Jews.

²³ But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Jesus told her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

- She knows she's met a prophet.
 - He knows her past
 - She asks for clarification of place of worship.
 - Jesus simply tells her time is coming - geography won't matter.
 - Things are open to bring all believers TOGETHER!
- She has heard of the coming of the Messiah.
 - Jesus says, *I, the one speaking to you, am he.*
 - In the Greek: *The one who speaks to you, I AM.*
 - *I AM* = the name by which God reveals himself (Ex 3:14).
 - *Jesus is claiming identity AS GOD!*

PROJECT:

²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

- COME AND SEE! The core of outreach - COME SEE JESUS!

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of what he said. ⁴² And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

MANY BELIEVED JESUS WAS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!
That is what happens when people clearly see Jesus!

ACTION:

- With inadequate knowledge and a mustard seed faith she brings her whole town to Jesus.
 - She couldn't stop talking about it!
 - It was bursting from within her! Tell Them About Jesus!
- For 49 years Priscilla Jane Owens taught in the Baltimore public schools and actively worked in a Church in Baltimore.
 - She was asked to write a new hymn for a missionary service.
 - Most missionary songs were heavy and hard to sing.
 - So she wrote this uplifting message:

We have heard the joyful sound:
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the tidings all around:
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Tell to sinners far and wide
The second verse starts this way:
Waft it on the rolling tide,
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Tell to sinners far and wide,
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Jesus the giver of Living Water!