

March 19, 2006

"The Samaritan Woman"

We all have Good News to share.

Key Verse: John 4:42 (MSG)

They said to the woman, "We're no longer taking this on your say-so. We've heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He's the Savior of the world!"

Bible Passage John 4:5-15, 27-29, 42 (NIV)

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. ... Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 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.) 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." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ..." Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst" 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." ... 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?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ? ... 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."

Lesson Thought

It's great to be able to share good news with someone. The Samaritan Woman went back into the town to tell her Good News - she had found the Messiah, the Savior of the world. The message she had was so important that she even forgot her water jug - and the only reason she had gone to the well was to get water! She told her friends, her family, her neighbors, even the town leaders. And they all came to meet Jesus. Many of them believed in Jesus as their own personal Savior.

Application: what does this lesson say to us today?

1) How can I show Jesus to the people around me?

2) What good news do I have to share with others? The good news of who Jesus is? The good news of what He has done for me? The last time He answered my prayers? A time when He helped me overcome a problem or a fear?

Family Activities: putting the lesson into action

1) For families with younger children, do this activity at the beginning of the devotions. Find a very large book, like a dictionary, a textbook, or an unabridged Bible concordance. Have each family member balance the book on their head and walk across the room. If they make it that far, have them turn around and come back. Say: "Was this easy to do? In today's Bible reading, Jesus is traveling through Samaria and meets a woman who has come to a well to get water. She may have carried her water jug on her head."

2) Look on the internet for pictures of women in Africa or the Middle East carrying heavy loads - perhaps jugs of water - on their heads. These women walk for miles without losing a drop. They can even balance it without using their hands!

Suggestions for further study

John 4:5-42

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