

What Jesus Taught us When Teaching Others

John 4:5-26

Intro:

A. As much as each of us has a desire to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors, most of us can relate to the fact that it can sometimes be difficult to do;

A. We know it should be that way, we have something that is valuable, it brings us joy, and we should be glad to tell others, even knowing that we can find it difficult to engage others;

B. This is certainly true for people we know, and sometimes even more so with a perfect stranger.

- Perhaps because of years of experience and practice it has become easier for some with us; but maybe not

- But most would admit to a time of difficulty

B. For many of even the most active evangelists, just because they are very busy working in the field doesn't mean that they are not sometimes scared or hesitant, or that they find it completely easy to do.

- **Satan is skilled at creating excuses for us to give, and we are skilled in taking them.**

- Our passage this morning shows us Jesus in a situation where many people could find a great deal of excuses to not share the gospel; but He didn't allow any of those to stop him.

I. **Overlooking the Value of One Soul** (v. 7, 8).

A. We must never overlook the need to reach just one individual soul

1. While there were many instances Jesus or His followers teaching large crowds, there are perhaps just as many examples of someone taking the time to reach out to a single person;

- Jesus and Nicodemus (John. 3:1-3)

- Phillip and Ethiopian (Acts 8:27-40).

- **Left the crowds of Samaria for just one man...**

2. It shouldn't surprise us that Phillip would leave; after all, just one soul is worth more than all the world has to offer; (Mk. 8:36, 37).

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

3. Forget potential gain from one soul (v. 39-42).

c. **It may start with just one soul; but who knows how many people could be lead to the Lord?**

B. Often think of the "Great Commission" In a broad picture, not an Individual Level

1. Recognize our duty to preach to "the world" but not our UPS courier, Someone in line at store, someone on an airplane...

- Tend to think "this isn't the time or place" "God doesn't expect us to make every conversation..."

- Don't think that way: "Im going to make this the time, or At least this conversation will be

2. Recognize our duty to teacher "every creature" but not a creature named Johnson or Smith.

3. Recognize our duty to save "the lost" but not a lost person with a name.

II. He Did His Father's Work Even When Tired (v. 6).

- Jesus had the same physical weaknesses we have; he got weary, he got tired, he could get sick; and in this case he was exhausted

A. Must we wait until we "feel our best" to do the Lord's work?

1. To attend a service: "I'm not going to get anything out of it like this..."

2. To teach a neighbor. "I want to make sure I'm thinking clearly"

3. To encourage a brother. "I need to take care of me first"

B. Great Accomplishments are seldom achieved when everything falls right into place

- Many are accomplished when we make the decision to work through adversity

III. He Did Not Pre-judge.

- A. It would have been easy to write this woman off as an unlikely prospect.
 - 1. She was a Samaritan (v. 9) Not a full Jew, mingled with gentiles
 - 2. She was very immoral (vv. 17, 18). 5 Husbands, on the sixth!
 - 3. She already had a religion (v. 20).
- B. It is likely that we sometimes decide in advance who will not accept the gospel.
 - 1. We preach the gospel is for all (Mk. 16:15; Acts 17:30).
 - 2. We act as though the gospel is only for certain people.
 - a. For the moral, not the immoral and vice versa
 - b. For the religious, not the irreligious and vice versa
 - c. For the rich, not poor, some races, not others and vice versa
 - Can suffer from “Head Start” or the “Too Late”
 - Same reasons can make someone a good/bad prospect in our eyes

IV. He took advantage of the Opportunity

- A. He turned ordinary conversation about drinking water into lesson on living water.
- B. He did not wait for a formal arrangement, she was open to teaching then and there.
 - 1. How often do we miss chances work teaching into our daily conversations?
 - 2. How often do we fail to capitalize on people’s remarks about religion in general?
 - 3. he didn’t wait for an opportunity; he made one: