

How to Win a Soul to Christ

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John 4:10-19 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

I. It was not, and still is not, necessary to have evangelistic campaigns to win the lost to Christ.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

- A. Jesus spoke to multitudes, but when He did, He was always teaching them and not trying to get a bunch of professions of faith.
- B. It was always in the monotonous everyday life that Jesus came to an individual soul privately and dealt with them about their personal standing before God.
- C. This woman was doing her daily, monotonous arduous task of drawing water for her monotonous, dreary, daily tasks.
- D. It is in the everyday intermingling with people as we all go about our daily work and business that we have the greatest opportunity to speak to others about the way of salvation.
- E. Jesus, the greatest example we have, always did it that way.
- F. Churches would do much better at winning and making disciples if they would focus on teaching those who attend the meetings to do the work of evangelism outside the church instead of looking at the church as the soul-saving station and the world as another part of their life.
- G. The meetings at the church are more for the edification and perfection of the saints and not primarily for the work of evangelism.

II. Jesus used an everyday task as a starting point for his conversation with this woman.

- A. He started by asking for a drink of water from the well, which is the reason she is there.
- B. We can start about anywhere, with anything if we train our minds to look for an opportunity there.
- C. The Bible is so full of parables and examples where God tries to help us understand spiritual things by looking at what is around us, and at the way things work in this physical world.
 - 1. After all, all things were created for Him and for his pleasure.
 - 2. Everything God created has his signature and something about his character and his ways stamped upon it.

- D. It is much easier for us to recognize these opportunities if our minds are full of the Word of God and exercised in it.
 - 1. This comes from study – not just mindlessly reading through it as fast as you can to meet your Bible reading schedule.
- E. This is something that will not come naturally to you if your mind is full of worldly thoughts and philosophies.

III. He spoke to her first, knowing that she would not speak to Him first

- A. If there is going to be a conversation about the things of God it is very unlikely that the sinner is going to say something first.
- B. She thought in her mind, from all the culture around her and what she had heard all her life that He would not want to speak to her, or want her speaking to Him.
- C. That He would be friendly enough to even speak to her opened a door in the wall between them.
- D. He asked for something from her – for her to do something for Him.
- E. Instead of just giving Him a drink she had to respond out of what had been drilled into her mind and heart about their social status.
 - 1. Your people do not have anything to do with my people – why would you ask anything of me?
 - 2. Why should I do anything for you, since you and your people will not do anything for us?
 - 3. It was almost like she was saying, “Where are your Jewish friends? Get one of them to draw water for you.”
- F. Jesus answered her by saying that if she had asked Him He would have given her much more than just a drink of water out of the well.
 - 1. Her answer to this showed that her thoughts were still on earthly things
 - 2. She thought that He would simply give her the same as what He was asking from her.

John 4:11-12 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

- G. But this is where Jesus shifted the focus from earthly to spiritual things.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

- 1. He is clearly speaking of the soul and something beyond this mortal life.
- 2. He is speaking of a rest and satisfaction that every soul yearns for.

- H. But the woman was still focused on the temporal.

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

- 1. If she is going to think about God and religion at all it is going to be as something to enrich her everyday earthly life and make it easier for her.
- 2. Selfishness does not like work and burdens, so it is a selfish heart that seeks to avoid it.
- 3. As long as this is the motive for seeking answers and knowledge of God there can be no salvation.

4. She has expressed an interest and a desire to have what He is talking about; to let Him help her and do something for her.
 5. But she is looking in the wrong direction and her heart is not yet seeking for the right reason.
- I. This is where modern evangelism just goes ahead and draws the net.
 1. Get her to pray and sign up, and then let the Lord deal with her about her sin.

IV. After the focus was on the eternal and the promise of blessings from God, Jesus turned the light on her sin.

- A. He did not ask her if she knew she was a sinner.
 1. She would certainly have said she wasn't, because she was hiding behind a sinning religion that allowed her to do as she pleased but still come and worship.
- B. He simply asked her to do something that would drag her sinfulness out into the light in front of both of them.

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

- C. He struck at the most universally sensitive area of her life.
 1. The matter of life where a person's true morality is revealed.
 2. As long as they are not confronted about it in the light of God they can justify themselves while they stay in their social circle of people who do the same things.
 3. But when drawn out of their safe place and into the light of God they are forced to see themselves as God does.
- D. Of course, this woman, being a sinner, answered with guile, like all sinners do.

John 4:17-18 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

1. She was shacking with a man who was not her husband, so she could truly say she had no husband.
 2. Jesus just made it clear that He knew she was being deceitful and still trying to hide her sinfulness.
- E. The fact that He knew about her other marriages and her present fornication raised her estimation of Him from Jew, to sir, to now – prophet.

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

1. Prophets talk about the sin of the people.
 2. Prophets warn people about their sin.
 3. Prophets corner people about their sin.
- F. She knows she is talking to someone who knows what they are talking about when it comes to God.
 1. She is not in the presence of another shallow, Bible-illiterate, religious ninny who is out trying to put his own righteousness on display.
 2. She is not being sold by a super-soul-winner.
 3. She is not being recruited for the work of some great religious organization.
 - G. This conversation has quickly gotten to the root of the her soul's condition.
 - H. As the conversation turns now to worship she about to shown the difference between the false that she has and the true living water she is being offered.