

**Subject: *Open the Eyes of My Heart***

**Scripture: *John 4:34-42***

Jesus taught, preached, healed, and did many miracles, but in this chapter we see His ministry of correction. He first corrected the Samaritan woman. She had some wrong ideas about worship. Then He corrected His disciples. They had some wrong ideas about evangelism and missions. A man by the name of Josh Billings once said, "It's not what a man don't know that hurts him; it's what he knows that ain't so that hurts him."

### **1. Help us see the priority of evangelism**

- Spiritual needs are more important than human differences

How many things separate us from our fellow man (language, nationality, skin color, social standing, and education just to name a few). This story represents the first instance of cross-cultural evangelism. Jesus had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman (vs. 4). He was a man. She was a woman. He was a Jew. She was a Samaritan. But this made no difference to the Lord. She was a soul in need of a Savior. Jesus' conversation with this Samaritan woman is quite different from His conversation with Nicodemus in John 3. Nicodemus was a man with a good reputation. This is an unnamed woman with a bad reputation. Nicodemus was a Jew. She was a Samaritan. Nicodemus was morally good. She was immoral. Jesus spoke to Nicodemus first about spiritual things. To the woman Jesus first spoke of physical things. But the two have this in common. They both needed to be saved. This chapter shows that Christ's love has no boundaries. There is no culture barrier, no gender gap, no economic class, no religious background, or no nationality that is off limits.

Have you ever avoided someone because you had a preconceived idea of what they were like? Have you ever intentionally gone out of your way to talk to someone who was very different than you? This is one of the blessings of being on a mission trip. I could tell you many experiences I have had over the years in New York City meeting people from all over the world. And even here in Bristol and Blountville, as I have gone into several neighborhoods delivering Gospel packets in our Every Home for Christ, I have seen poverty and wealth and a lot in between. But everybody has some things in common. All people have the same basic spiritual needs. Our greatest need is God's forgiveness and grace and the gift of eternal life that comes from Jesus.

- Spiritual needs are more important than physical needs

Jesus talked to her about spiritual thirst and spiritual water for her thirsty soul, but she kept talking about physical water and physical thirst. In John 3, Jesus talked to Nicodemus who was a very highly educated and religious man, but all he could think of was the physical. When Jesus told him that we must be born again, he asked how it was possible to enter his mother's womb and be born the second time. Now in John 4, He talks to the woman about her spiritual needs. When the subject of worship comes up, this woman was interested in the place (the physical), but Jesus told her the priority of worship is spiritual, and the important thing is not *where* we worship, but *how* we worship ("in spirit and truth").

Even the disciples seemed to have their priorities wrong (vs. 8, 31-34). They had their mind on food, but Jesus said something was even more satisfying.

### **2. Help us see the urgency of evangelism**

Look at verse 35. We must take advantage of opportunities before they pass. The only time we have for evangelism is now. We don't know if we will have the same opportunities at a later time. We can't afford to procrastinate. For one thing, we may not be

able. And people are dying every day. The Gospel is good news only if it arrives in time. Now is the accepted time. Today is the day of salvation. And since that is true, today is the day to tell others about salvation. There is never a better time to share the Gospel than now.

### **3. Help us see the responsibility of evangelism**

We all have a part in sowing and reaping. Evangelism is the duty of every believer, not just the pastor, evangelist, or missionary. Some sow and others reap, but we all have a part in the work. As we share the Gospel and seek to win others to Christ, we must never forget that others have gone before us to prepare the way and others will come behind us and continue the good work.

God has given us a big assignment. It starts here at home and reaches around the world. And it takes all of us working together to get it done. All of us can pray and all of us can give, and some of us can go. Some can go locally and some can go far away. The goal is to bring men and women, boys and girls to Christ. See verse 42. Jesus is “the Christ, the Savior of the world.” He is the one and only Savior for everybody in the world and they need to know that. Doesn’t it break your heart that people just don’t realize they need a Savior and they don’t realize they have a Savior who will save them from their sins? We must tell them.