

The Natural Response to God's Pursuit

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❖ Introduction

- **Look Back At the Previous Sermon**
- **God's Relentless Pursuit (The Woman at the Well)**
 - Samaria – A Bad Place
 - Samaritan Woman – A Bad Woman
 - Jesus Offers Her living Water and She doesn't Get it
 - He explains what He means... she doesn't Get it
 - Jesus Reveals her Sin... she still doesn't quite get it
 - Jesus Revealed to her who she is to worship and how.... She still doesn't get it
 - Jesus Reveals to her who He is....
- **So today... We are about to see that She Got it!**
 - It finally made sense to her...
 - God Changed her heart...
 - And lets see how she responds when Jesus opened her eyes to who He was

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❖ The Woman Told People Her Story

- **1) She Left Her Old Life for The New Life**
 - So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,
 - **Left her Water Jar...**
 - The whole purpose of her coming, she just left behind.
 - It is no accident that John records this seemingly insignificant fact
 - ◆ I believe there is an entire sermon in this one little seemingly insignificant fact
 - **Reminds me of His calling of the disciples:**

- ◆ Peter and Andrew
 - Matthew 4:19-20 ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- ◆ Matthew
 - Luke 5:27-28 ²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.
- ◆ Philip
 - John 1:43 ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
 - Philip goes and tells Nathaniel "We have found the Messiah.... Come and See
- ◆ Other Disciples
 - IN Luke 9:57-62 ... Jesus tells some to follow Him... the guy answers, let me bury my Father
 - Jesus says... let the **dead** bury their own dead (expound)
 - To the other He says follow me, and the guy responds, let me go and say good bye...
 - Jesus says... don't look back
- ◆ You and Me
 - Luke 9:23 ²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

▪ **What do You Need to leave behind to be a more effective follower of Jesus?**

- What in your life is keeping you from leading other people to Jesus
- You have to leave something behind
 - ◆ Being More Consistent at Church (Very difficult to lead others to Christ)
 - ◆ Is Your Selfishness getting in the way of following Jesus?
 - ◆ Pride?
 - ◆ Finances?
 - Are you like the monkey's that just won't let go? (Tell Story)

➤ **2) Why was she able to leave the Old Life for the New Life... (And tell her Story) ?**

▪ **She was given that Living Water**

- Remember she came with the water jar... for water... then she leaves without it
- What happened in the time between her coming to get water from this well...
 - ◆ And leaving without the water from the well, in the jar she left behind?

▪ **Jesus gave her living Water...**

- Remember... He said..
 - ◆ John 4:10 ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."
 - ◆ And then... in vs 14 "The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

➤ **3) She Told Her Story in Humility**

- "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"
- These people knew who she was... and here she comes admitting it...
 - He told me everything I ever did....
 - WOW.... That is a lot of stuff...
 - ◆ I can only imagine...

- **Application:**
 - I have only been married once... (it is my only plan)... I am no better than this lady
 - And it would be a long and terrible event to sit and hear Jesus tell me all I ever did...
 - I would want to crawl into a cave and die from embarrassment and sorrow
- **But She owned up to it...**
 - And came in humility to her town....
- **A Great lesson for us as well...**
 - I heard the story of a certain young lady in our church that had wronged someone in her past...
 - But then she got saved... So she went to this person to apologize and tell her story...
 - And God will work wonders through that...

➤ **4) She Told Her Story to Those Who Shunned Her...**

- Remember she was an outcast... (She went to the well at noon... when no one goes)
 - This is not a stretch... Her reputation and current lifestyle made her an outcast of outcasts...
 - Remember this whole city was considered immoral by the Jewish people...
- Regardless of who they were or what they had done to her...
 - She went to tell them about Jesus...
- **The Gospel is Transformative...**
 - It causes us to pray for our enemies and serve those who mistreat us...
 - Have You been transformed by the gospel in this way?

➤ **REMEMBER: The Story is About Jesus...**

- It is not about about this woman....
- It is about how JESUS changed this woman
- It's about Jesus giving her a new heart, and putting His Spirit in her, causing her to be born again...
- And then, it is about how, through this woman, Jesus was able to reach many more from the town

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❖ **Jesus' Food was Giving Eternal Life**

➤ **A little break in the action it seems:**

- The passage has a little bracket in it...
 - Meanwhile:.... Meanwhile...
- It is a teaching moment for Jesus...
 - He can explain now, why He came here to this place, what He is doing, and why He is doing it...
- **We are going behind the scenes a little bit**
 - And now we see Jesus explaining His heart and desire here..
 - He has come to bring a harvest of lost souls...
 - He has come to find His sheep... His children...
 - **Remember the 99 sheep...**

- ◆ Matthew 18:12¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

➤ **Jesus Came to this Earth for One Reason: To seek and to save the lost**

- Luke 19:10¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

➤ **Jesus’ Food was to do the will of God**

- Accomplish His Work ... Bringing His Children into loving relationship with Him...
- Remember John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes on Him, will not perish but have eternal life.”
- For Jesus, Doing the will of God was like gaining energy and pleasure from eating a meal
 - It fills your hungry soul...

➤ **Many are Starving Spiritually b/c they are not making an effort to be involved in the work of God**

- Our Perspective is all off...
- Rebuke: Let me be a little honest, but also gentle... I do not want to throw out a blanket statement
 - I think you will know in truth if this applies to you or not.
 - We think: I don’t have the time or the energy to do the things God wants me to do.
 - ◆ I believe we don’t have the time and energy we need because we are not doing the things God has called us to do.
- Jesus tells the disciples... while you were gone, I was speaking with this woman and leading her to eternal life... And this FILLS ME UP... It sustains me...
- John Piper says “Essentially He is saying, I am strengthened to do what God has called me to do by doing what God has called me to do”

➤ **The Harvest Analogy**

- , ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’?
- You would Plant
 - The planting was hard work... prepping the fields, and then planting the seeds...
 - And then you would wait...
 - And you knew your life depended on these crops coming up...
- And then Four Months Later You Would Harvest
 - And then comes the reward for the labor you put into the crops...
 - And it was a very joyous time bringing in the fruits and vegetables...
- Jesus uses this analogy to tell the disciples that the souls of men were ripe for the picking...
 - Jesus is saying... it is go time...

➤ **The People Are Ready to Come into the Kingdom of God**

- Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
- The woman got this... She took the gospel she was given, and began to sow it at home
- And she was immediately bringing in the fruit... People were coming to know Jesus...
- **Jesus is Trying to stir up some urgency into His disciples...**
 - And boy would they get it... and they would go on to see a harvest of
 - In Acts... 3,000 souls in one day... (that is a lot today.... That is a lot a lot in those days)
 - It was said of them in Acts that they were “Turning the World upside down”

➤ **Motivation for Reaching Out**

- Not only does He save us... but gives us great motivation to reach out to those around us

- **Already the one who reaps is receiving wages (rewards) and gathering fruit for eternal life,**
- Rewards will be given to those who reach the lost
- **Sowers and Reapers will Rejoice together**
 - We are all in this together.... We just come a long at different times...
 - Your faithfulness to God in sharing your story, may have more of an impact in someone's salvation than the person's work that sees it come to fruition...
 - **We both get rewarded... we both rejoice that we worked together**
 - Why do we rejoice.... Not just because we will receive a reward for our work...
 - But because we are playing a part of snatching people out of the kingdom of darkness and certain, sudden, eternal destruction in hell.
- **What is important is that we are doing one or the other...**
 - Planting the gospel
 - Or Leading People into a Relationship with Jesus Christ
- **The Neat and Awesome thing is:**
 - He used this sinful, broken down outcast of outcasts woman to bring salvation to many
 - God has some more people to be reached...
 - And He has some sinful and unlikely people to do the reaching...
 - US...

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that 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 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

❖ **Many Believed Because the Woman Told Her Story**

- They Had A Revival Because this woman's heart was changed
- **Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."**
- **They Got Their Own Story**
 - The Woman Pointed the Way to Jesus...
 - But then, they met Him for themselves
 - **They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."**
 - **After Hearing for themselves, they said:**
 - ◆ **We Know**
 - They had true knowledge of
 - ◆ **That Indeed**
 - Indeed... For Sure... I am certain...
 - ◆ **He is the Savior of the World**
 - He is who you said He was...
 - He is who I now know Him to Be...
 - **Jesus Stays With Them for Two Days**
 - He started out this trip with...
 - ◆ ... And He had to pass through Samaria
 - ◆ He had a divine appointment to meet this lady... to Pursue Her...
 - ◆ And to the Pursue the rest of the town

- **Many need to meet Jesus**
 - Many we know need to move from hearing it from others, to knowing it from Him
 - The Experience of coming to Jesus is like no other on this earth...
 - **There's no greater thing to happen to a person than to experience Salvation in Jesus**
 - The day you hear the truth about who Jesus is
 - And all your sins are laid open before your eyes... and it is heavy....
 - And you feel almost like you may be crushed by the weight of the guilt of your sins...
 - ◆ "He told me all that I ever did."
 - And He reveals that to you...
 - **And then it all becomes crystal clear...**
 - He is who He says He is...
 - As He says to the woman who is waiting for the Messiah (Savior of world) back in vs 26
 - "I who speak to you am He"
- **You Have Heard it many times before:**
 - The message of Salvation from Jesus...
 - Someone has shared their Story with you...
- **Do You have a story?**
- **Why is it so important that you have a story?**
 - You are lost and dying in sin, and on your way to eternal destruction in Hell if not
 - Jesus offers free Salvation because He took Our sins on himself
 - We just have to Repent and Have Faith in Jesus...
 - Tell him we are wrong, confessing our sins to Him, and believing on His name
- **When is the last time you shared your story?**