

## Just Walk Across the Room. John 4:1-42.

### The Great Commission .. Matthew 28:18-20...

Jesus said to them.. *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the close of the age*

#### Outline of the Commission

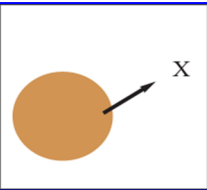
1. The power of the King.. “all authority”
2. The purpose of the King.. “make disciples”
3. The precept of the King.. “going.. baptising..teaching”
4. The presence of the King.. “I am with you always”

#### The Single Greatest Gift....

The single greatest gift Christ-followers can give to the people in their lives is an introduction to the God who created them, who loves them and who has a purpose for their lives. This is what evangelism is: telling the Good News of Jesus and giving people the opportunity to repent and follow Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord— seizing opportunities to have eternal impact in someone’s life—opportunities that originate with a simple walk across the room....or across the world... .. eg Jo Shetler.



We must be prepared to “Walk across the room” - to begin a conversation—and build a relationship and share the message of salvation through Jesus



Am I ready to give the single greatest gift to someone? As Bill Hybels reminds us—Go and be willing to enter the Zone of the \_\_\_\_\_

Now let’s look to the example of Jesus “walking across” to a Samaritan woman ...  
John 4:1 - 42...

#### 1. Jesus appeals to her \_\_\_\_\_

*Now He (Jesus) had to go through Samaria. 5 So He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as He was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give Me a drink?” John 4: 4-7.*

- Jesus goes from the well known – Nicodemus (chp 3), we know his name and he may have been the greatest teacher of all of Israel at that time – to the unknown. We don’t even know this woman’s name. He goes from a great leader to a common person.
- This woman was a Samaritan, despised by Jews, who would take the long route to the Galilee by crossing the Jordan river and thus avoiding Samaria. Also she was known to be living in sin and in a public place.. No respectable Jew would talk to a woman in these circumstances. But Jesus ignored all this so as to share Good News with this woman.

- ....contin.. But Jesus did.. He starts this conversation, He shows this genuine love for people by doing one simple thing – He asks her for a drink.

*Vs 9 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).*

## 2. Jesus appeals to her \_\_\_\_\_ vs 10.

*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.” vs 10.*

- After appealing to her heart by asking for a drink of water Jesus got her attention, got her talking, Now He appeals to her mind.
- Jesus is by a well.. He now says is “I want to give you living water.” He’s talking to a thirsty woman about living water. When you want to communicate to someone the good news of Jesus Christ, you have to move from the known to the unknown, from the felt need to the real need (Our greatest need is forgiveness of sins). .

vs 12.. Provocative! *“Sir,” the woman said, “You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can You get this living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” John 4:11,12.*



- Don’t get into an argument! Proverbs 15:1.. Having captured her attention and stimulated her mind, Jesus then spoke an enigmatic saying to cause her to think. .. ie “living water” .. 1 Peter 3:15..

Consider the way Jesus reached out to different people....

- **Nicodemus**.. John 3:1-3... Spoke \_\_\_\_\_ “You must be born again!”
- **Saul** ..Acts 9:1-9 ... dramatic intervention.. “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?”... then caused Saul to be blinded
- **Centurions servant** Luke 7:1-10 ..... \_\_\_\_\_ his Master’s faith
- **Little children** (Mark 10:13-16) ..... “Let the little children come to Me”..

## 3. Jesus appeals to her \_\_\_\_\_ vs 13.

*Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13,14.*

- Look at the picture Jesus gives to us of this living water. He says you will never thirst again. This tells us this living water flows constantly. You’ll never thirst. The things that money can’t buy – purpose, joy, hope, forgiveness of sin, eternal life.. Jesus gives them to us as we follow Him... John 10:10..
- The Samaritan woman’s reply shows us what many are so often like. We’re so concerned

- ...with the material that we cannot see the spiritual.
- 15. *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.”* .. The woman misunderstands...

#### 4. Jesus appeals to her \_\_\_\_\_ vs 16-18

- Jesus changes direction in His conversation..

*16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” 17 “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”*

- Jesus Christ understands. He needs to appeal not just to her heart , mind and to her desires. He also needs to appeal to her conscience. Jesus Christ exposes sin and makes people squirm in guilt but sin needs to be dealt with.

*19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that You are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.*

- Jesus points out her guilt and she immediately wants to talk about the difference between Jewish and Samaritan religions! It is much more comfortable to discuss **religion** than to face ones sins... this can happen with us too in our conversations—the significant conversation can be replaced by the trivial... keep the focus on Jesus ... (listen to the prompts of the Spirit)..
- Josh McDowell in his early life as a young man... impressed by the witness of Christians on a university campus. What makes you different? A young lady said... “Jesus Christ”. Josh McDowell arrogantly shot back... I don’t believe in that **religion garbage**. And the young lady equal to the task... said... “I didn’t say religion... I said Jesus Christ”... (check out His resurrection too) That was the beginning of a long journey for Josh McDowell... now he is one of the foremost apologists for the Christian faith in the world.

#### 5. Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ vs 21—24.

*“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. vs 21.*

- All this argument, it doesn’t matter. .Jesus had told the Samaritan woman that the old rivalries were on the way out because someday we’re not going to worship at either place.

*22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in Truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 **God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in Truth.**”*

- Jesus cuts to the real answer and says that genuine worship is in spirit with your heart and in truth. The location does not matter... our Lord is not bound by physical structures

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am He."*

- This is a climactic moment. Christ has just said to this woman, "I am the Messiah." This is the only person Jesus says He's the Messiah to until He gets to His trial.

6. The woman's \_\_\_\_\_

The Samaritan woman immediately shared her experience with others.. What a response!

*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. 41 And because of His words many more became believers. 42 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."*

Do you know and follow Jesus?..... (Acts 3:19)..

1. Get proximity to people who need to hear about following Jesus.. eg school working bee, at work or leisure. Intentional specific prayer ... "Lord might you guide and bless our conversation please"... Tennis player.. "What do you think happens after death?"
  2. Pray and listen for the Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_. eg.. Perhaps I could help the coach of my child's sport...
  3. Just walk!
- Is there someone I can "walk across the room" to this week? .....

PS... Think of someone who "walked" across the room to you. Have you ever said "thanks" to that person?

