

“He told me all that I ever did.”

A Lesson in John 4:39-42
Jacob Bauder – Teaching Bible

Hook

- "I would not be here with the ease and grace I have in my heart without my lord and savior, Jesus Christ."
- Who do you think... Chris Pratt
- Pratt: (Esquire magazine in 2014)
 - "This guy came by and was like, 'What are you doing tonight?' I was like, 'Oh, I dunno...'. So he's like, 'Will you fornicate tonight?' I was like, 'I hope so.' 'And drugs and drinking?' It's like, 'Most likely, yeah. Probably all three of those things. I mean, at least two of them, possibly all three,'"
 - "He was like, 'I stopped because Jesus told me to stop and talk to you.' I gave my soul to Jesus within, like, two days."
- Look at what that one random person on the street did! He stopped Chris Pratt, and started a conversation with him, and told Pratt his story and about the power of God. And while no one can truly know if he is a Christian, from all public knowledge, Pratt is a devout and outspoken believer. And is not afraid to share his story with those around him.
- In this lesson, we will be exploring the story of the woman at the well.
- I am sure we are all familiar with her encounter with Christ, and thus I decided to study the portion of the story which is less well known: what happens after the woman turns to Christ.
- Following her encounter with Christ, the woman went out to share her testimony of what Christ was able to do.

Book

- **Scripture: John 4:39-42 (ESV)**
- 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.”

- **39** - Our stories can bring people to faith
 - When the woman shared her story with Jesus, and said “He told me all that I ever did”, it lit the spark that led them to discover who Christ really is.
 - Discussion Questions:
 - What in your story makes your testimony unique?
 - What group do you think God has prepared you to minister to?

- **40-41** - We need to invite Christ into our lives and let His words change us.
 - When the Samaritans heard about what Christ had done, they invited Him into their homes, in order to hear from Jesus himself who He is.
 - Once hearing from Christ, they believed because of His words and what they learned about Him.
 - Discussion Questions:
 - What is a modern day example of asking Christ to stay in our home?
 - How might this proximity to Christ impact you?

- **42** - Our testimonies light the spark of a personal relationship with Christ in the lost.
 - When the Samaritans heard the woman’s story, they became interested in Christ.
 - But it was not until they talked to Him and formed a personal relationship with Him on their own that they came to know Christ as the Savior of the world.
 - Discussion Questions:
 - What would happen if the Samaritans only believed because of what the woman said?
 - How can we help people cross this bridge from believing because of what we said over to believing because of who Christ is?

Look

- Our testimonies have power, and we need to share them with the lost so that they can come to develop a personal relationship with Christ.

- By hearing our story, the lost can gain faith strong enough to help them find their own personal faith.

- **LEARNING TASK – The trout stream**
- Just like how the trout can only grow to a certain point within the pond here, and then have to be let go to go continue to grow, the lost can only begin their journey with Christ through our testimony. After they begin to grow, they need to be “let go” so they can go talk to God and discover Jesus for themselves! They need to live out verse 42.

- Questions:
- What would happen to the trout if we kept them in the enclosure?
- Why is it important to let them go to swim on their own?
- What would happen if we let them go too soon?
- How does this relate to the passage?

Took

- We need to go out into the world to share our testimonies with the lost, and encourage them to pursue Christ and develop their own faith apart from ours
- But not only that, we need to share our stories with each other, so that we may be encouraged, and so that we can know to whom we should refer those who are hurting.
- Imagine someone comes to you with a struggle which you have no knowledge or personal experience with, but you know someone else who has grown through that struggle in their own testimony. You can refer them to someone who would be better able to help them in their walk through a mutual experience.
- Discussion
- How can our stories help others find Christ?
- I want to spend some time now working through the questions on the outline. I want you all to think through your testimony, and the different struggles you have gone through.
- Then, I want you to identify someone in your life with whom you can share your testimony in the next few weeks.
- And finally, think of an area in your life which you need Christ to restore today. Or in other words, what is that thing which we are going to the well in the middle of the day for, and how is God bringing that out?
- Creation: Who you were before
- Fall: What you struggled with
- Redemption: How you came to Christ
- Restoration: Who you are now
- Keep these thoughts in mind through dinner, and I would encourage you all to group up with some others during the campfire and share what you've written down! Look to encourage others, and receive encouragement yourself.
- Provide space for them to share that piece which they do not normally share? – Campfire