

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on December 15, 2019:**

**"Transformed by the Son of God:
Receiving and Sharing Jesus (John 4:1-54)
(Part 5)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us that Jesus is the reason for the season and that we need to share Him with others by commenting on how Jesus has brought us out of our own personal crisis.]

Notes

Introduction:

- How many of us believe that Jesus is the reason for the season?
- How many of us believe that this is the season for receiving Jesus?
- Now, wouldn't it be a good idea to share Jesus as the reason for the season?

- And so, how many of us struggle with sharing our faith? Many of us do.
- So, our challenge is set before us this season – to receive more of Jesus and then to share Him with others.
- Hopefully this passage from John 4 will point out a clear way of fulfilling this challenge we face.
- These verses will show us how Jesus works within us in order to share our faith.

In Preview of today's message (John 4:1-54) – pastor Craig's rhyming verses:

*Receive and share Jesus is our message toDay,
Belief and response is what John has to Say;
Four examples as we shall See,
A Samaritan woman, Disciples, and Samaritans, make Three;*

*If cultivating, planting, and reaping we are Doing,
Just as with Jesus, growth is Ensuing.
Finally a Nobleman in crisis at First,
Faith becomes confident, confirmed, and contagious with Thirst.*

1. The Samaritan woman (John 4:1-30): (She identifies 4 things about our Lord and Savior)

- a) Jesus "a Jew" (verses 9-10)
- b) Jesus "greater than Jacob" (verses 11-15)
- c) Jesus "a prophet" (verses 16-24)
- d) Jesus "the Christ" (verses 25-30)

John 4:1 (NIV), John 4:1 (NIV), Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John – 2) although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

- The Pharisees, the religious leaders, thought they held the power structure of the Jewish society.
- They were the 1% over the 99%.
- And here we have Jesus who was starting to mess with their power structure.
- And they wanted to deal with him so they could preserve their power.

3) So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4) Now he had to go through Samaria.

- Samaria was the low 5% of the population status.
- They were the most despised people living in Judea.
- So Jesus comes here to show that he is not partial – that He loves Samaritans, that he loves women.

5) So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

- This area was known as “Jacob’s well.”
- Jacob was a symbol of the Jewish class structure, and Jesus comes here to challenge the class structure.

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?”

- As we’ll see, it wasn’t Gloria Steinem that founded the Feminist Movement, but rather it was Jesus Christ.
- What Jesus did went against all the class structures of the day. It was socially unacceptable.
- Men, in public, didn’t interact with women, especially a Samaritan woman.
- Jesus is there to take on the class structure of the day.

8) (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

a) Jesus “a Jew” (verses 9-10):

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.) 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.”

- Jesus is telling the despised element of that society that He is the great equalizer.
- Jesus is saying that He is no respecter of persons or class structures.
- Jesus is telling the Samaritan woman that He is here to give her and her people everything.
- So, when we receive Jesus this time of year, not everyone gets it or understands who Jesus really is and that they are included in Him.

b) Jesus “greater than Jacob” (verses 11-15):

11) “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?”

- Jesus offers everyone, not just a special group of people, “living water.”
- The question is: “Will we receive it?”
- And if we do, is it just for ourselves, or do we have a greater responsibility that comes from love so that we can pass Jesus on to others?

13) Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14) but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.

- Can we for a moment, just let what Jesus said sink in?
- When we receive Jesus, we will never thirst again meaning we are fulfilled spiritually.

14b) Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- So, when Jesus is the reason for the season, it means that we completely receive and accept Jesus.

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.”

- She’s beginning to understand more about Jesus.

c) Jesus “a prophet” (verses 16-24):

16) He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

- Now, Jesus is going personal.
- The Samaritan woman is now going to come what we call “a crisis of faith.”
- She is feeling uncomfortable when Jesus refers to her marital relationships.

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.

- Now, all of us, at one time or another come to a crisis of faith, because Jesus knows how to bring us to that reality.
- So, what in your life has caused you to come to a challenge or a crisis – and where has Jesus spoken into that?
- And we then realize that God stepped into our life and dealt with our crisis.
- And this is our starting point to share our faith, because there’s some challenge in our life that God provided an answer as a miracle.
- And so this becomes our means to share our faith with others.

18b) What you have just said is quite true.”

- Jesus is bring the Samaritan woman to a spiritual crisis without fear, without shame, without guilt, and without doubt.
- Jesus was not shaming her, because if He did, she would have had a completely different reaction.
- In talking to her, Jesus was sharing His love with her as He was bringing her to a point in her life, where she would make some decisions.
- Jesus was embracing her at the same time He was challenging her.

19) “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

- Now, if Jesus was shaming her or laying guilt on her, would she have had this kind of reaction?
- If she felt condemned, she would have pulled back and not have responded that Jesus was a prophet.

20) Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

- People in those days felt that there were only special places where you could go to worship God.

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

- Jesus was telling her that soon, this will not be an issue to have only special places where one worships God.

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.

- Jesus is showing the Samaritan woman and all of us, as well, that God is an inclusive God, who includes everyone.
- Jesus is also showing her that she is not despised despite of her lifestyle.

24) God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

d. Jesus “the Christ” (verses 25-30):

25) 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.”

- Jesus revealed to her that He was God, when He said, “I am he” which is based on Old Testament Scriptures.
- Jesus managed to turn the Samaritan woman around with his loving conversation with her.

- The Samaritan woman had a crisis of faith, and then her faith was moved to a point of confidence. And when her confidence and faith were confirmed, it became contagious.

27) Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

- The disciples obviously had the same kind of class issues that everyone else did.
- But they didn’t call Jesus on it.

28) Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29) “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

- The Samaritan woman shared her faith.
- By her statements, she felt endeared to Jesus.

30) They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

2. The Disciples (:31-38):

31) Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32) But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” 33) Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” 34) “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

- Jesus never did anything on His own – He was always lead by the Father.
- That shows us that the Father, Son and Spirit are one God and that they are in unity and harmony.

35) Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

- There are a lot of not-yet-believers today who are dealing with the pressures and struggles of life on their own.
- And Jesus is telling them, “Come, come.”

36) Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37) Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

- Today, we don’t think a lot of things are fair.
- But, what is fair in God’s economy?
- Has He not opened everything up for all of us to receive?
- He welcomes us in. God is not a respecter of persons.
- But, we all have different gifts – some plant – some water – some reap.
- Then and in today’s world, reaping seems to have a higher value than doing all the hard preparatory work of sharing.

3. The Samaritans (verses 39-42):

39) Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

- She planted, watered as well as reaped in a very short period of time.
- She received and shared and then growth ensued.
- Now, when we are sharing the Gospel, it doesn't happen on our time frame.
- The Holy Spirit moves at his own pace.
- Sometimes He's faster than the pace of the corporate world.
- The Holy Spirit usually works in a crock pot, not a microwave.

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."

- They remarked that yes, Jesus is the Savior of the world, not just believers, not just Jews, but the Savior of us despised Samaritans.
- Jesus was speaking to them and by doing so transforming them into believers.

4. The Nobleman (verses 43-54):

43) After the two days he left for Galilee. 44) (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) 45) When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. 46) Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

- This royal official was probably part of the top 1% of that society.
- We want the best for our children.
- In fact, as a parent, there is nothing more joyful in our lives than to see our children succeed more than we have.
- And so this official was in a crisis of faith as he was heart struck that his son lay sick and was ready to die.

47) When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

- The official didn't simply ask Jesus, he begged him to come and heal his son.

48) "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." 49) The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50) "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."

- So, at this point, the royal official's crisis turned to confidence.
- Jesus' answer obviously strengthened the official's confidence in Him that Jesus could heal.

50b) The man took Jesus at his word and departed. 51) While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52) When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

53) Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

- The official's confidence now turned to confirmation that his crisis had been overcome.

54) This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

In Summary of John 4:1-54 (Let's say this together):

*Receive and share Jesus is our message today,
Belief and response is what John has to say;
Four examples as we shall see,
A Samaritan woman, Disciples, and Samaritans, make Three;*

*If cultivating, planting, and reaping we are doing,
Just as with Jesus, growth is ensuing.
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Concluding comments:

- Now we all come to certain crises at a certain time in our life.
- And it's at those times when we hear Jesus speak to us.
- This is the point in our life, when we feel that God has responded in a miraculous way, that becomes our personal testimony that we share with others.
- We don't have to have a doctorate in theology to share our faith.
- You don't need a master's degree from Grace Seminary to share our belief.
- God takes us from crisis to confidence to confirmation to being contagious.
- Pastor Craig then shared several of his own personal crises which always centered around jobs and work.
- Now we all have had a crisis of faith that God has intervened in and we need to be willing to share that with others because that's how Jesus brings people into relationship with Him.
- This is how we can reach people at their hearts and share with them what we have received from Jesus.

Closing prayer