

Gospel of John – 4
3:22 – 4:45

Introduction

Let me clarify something from last week and correct something from last week.

- Clarify – I had some questions from folks afterwards regarding what I said about two people can hear the same Gospel presentation and respond in opposing ways. That does not mean that the person who did not respond is condemned to Hell permanently. Just because the Holy Spirit isn't illuminating them at that moment does not mean He won't be doing that some other time. The Gospel is offered to all and people are responsible for personally responding...they just aren't there yet. Obviously not all people accept the Gospel, indeed most reject it. But we never give up hope for the salvation of anyone.
- Correct – in attempting last week to make the case that we cannot choose Christ solely on our own, I believe that I overstated my case a bit. All I am trying to communicate is that the Holy Spirit has to be at work in us PRIOR to salvation. Otherwise, this corpse of a soul we have would not be able to choose Christ. Through the Spirit's work of convicting us of sin, opening our eyes to the truth of the Gospel, and illuminating our need for salvation, we come to the point where we must choose or reject Christ.
 - o I did misspeak on a critical point last week...I have already ensured my notes are correct that have been uploaded for it. I mistakenly said that regeneration precedes faith. What I meant to say was that illumination precedes faith. Once we come to a place that we place our faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit then takes over and does his miraculous regenerating work, turning our lifeless water into bubbling wine. The moment we place our faith in Christ is the moment we are born again.

We begin now with the final episode involving John the Baptist and then we move into Jesus' 2nd discourse on being Living Water.

John 3:22-30

- John's baptism was a Jewish baptism for repentance, a sign of purification and cleaning. We aren't talking about Christian baptism at this point. The New Testament era, the New Covenant, did not technically begin until Jesus rose from the dead.
- V. 23 – water plentiful...yet another reason why baptism is biblically only by immersion. You have to have much water to immerse.
- V. 24 – John does not record the arrest/imprisonment/death of John the Baptist. He only alludes to it here.
 - o Matthew 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29; Luke 3:19; 9:7-9

- All these events so far have taken place prior to his arrest...all prior to Mark 1:14
- Discussion arises about purification...likely the purpose of John's baptism as opposed to Jesus' baptism. But the real issue at hand is one of competition...more people are following Jesus than us.
 - V. 27 – John's response of humility. All we have is given by God (1 Cor. 4:7)
 - V. 28 – been sent before him
 - **Malachi 3:1**
 - Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27
 - John is simply the best man, not the groom
 - ILL – done hundreds of weddings...mixed experience with best men
 - Best ones never draw attention to themselves
 - Jesus identifies himself as the groom (Matthew 9:15)
 - Ephesians 5:22-33
 - This designation identifies Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah/King
 - OT – Israel presented as God's bride
 - **Isaiah 62:4-5**
 - **Hosea 2:16-20**
- V. 30 – increase and decrease
 - The light has come (1:6-9), now the lamp can flicker out (5:35)

John 3:31-36

- It is debated whether this is still John the Baptist speaking or if this is now John the author inserting his theological commentary.
- V. 31 – comes from above...same word as 3:3 for born 'again.' To be born from above, must have faith in the one who is from above.
- V. 32 – bears witness to seen and heard...from Heaven, he enlightens us about the realities of eternity.
 - How does he do that? Through the Holy Spirit, we have access to him.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:12-16** – doctrine of illumination...mind of Christ
 - No one receives his testimony? Meaning most at that time did not (repetition of 1:10-11)
- V. 33 – sets his seal...authenticates as real. When you trust Christ, you are affirming this is all real.
- V. 34 – gives Spirit w/o measure...two possible interpretations
 - That the Father gives the Son the Spirit w/o measure (1:32-33...remains)
 - That the Son gives Spirit to his people w/o measure
 - 1:33; 15:26; **Acts 2:32-33**
- V. 35 – Father given all things to Jesus...supreme authority of the Father, delegates authority over the created universe to the Son
 - John 1:3; 3:16-17; 5:22; 6:38; 14:16,28; Acts 2:33; 5:31; Romans 8:29,34; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:28; Ephesians 1:4-5; Hebrews 1:2-3,13; 1 Peter 3:22

- Shows us a unique aspect of the Trinity...is there a hierarchy in the Trinity?
 - Imminent v. Economic Trinity
 - All 3 persons are one unity that is God
 - Yet voluntarily choose to function in subordinate roles...
 - Jesus in Gospel of John
 - Holy Spirit given by Father to Jesus to be sent
 - Jesus turns Kingdom over to the Father (1 Cor. 15)
- 'all things' turned over to Jesus includes the giving of life and judgement
 - 5:20-29
- V. 36 – 'has' eternal life...not will have, but present reality.
 - Juxtaposition of believe and obey
 - Genuine faith v. defiant disobedience

John 4:1-6

- Left Judea in South to go to Galilee in North. Samaria is in middle.
 - 'had to go through'
 - Could refer to most direct route
 - Could mean divine plan of God
 - 'dei' – 3:7,14,30; 9:4; 10:16; 12:34; 20:9
 - Good Jews would not defile themselves by walking through it. Instead would walk East, cross the Jordan River, walk up its bank, and cross again in the North.
 - Racial and religious prejudices from both sides
 - 2 Kings 17 (722 BC) Northern Kingdom had capital city of Samaria. Assyrians destroyed it. Took many captives, settled many foreigners into region. Remaining Jews intermarried with them.
 - Pure Jews viewed them as religious sellouts and racial half-breeds.
 - Sychar...Jacob's well. Still there today. She will call it 'deep.' Very true. When it was cleaned out in 1935, it was 138' deep. Not spring fed, but rain and dew runoff.
- It's noon...common practice was to draw water early in day and in evening to avoid heat. Without a compelling reason, no one did this.

John 4:7-26

- Woman is the opposite of Nicodemus in every way
 - Man/woman // Jew/Samaritan // Righteous/sinner // Rabbi/outcast // silent to challenge of Jesus/dialogues
 - However, she will misunderstand Jesus just as he did.
- V. 9 – Jew wouldn't talk to Samaritan...men wouldn't talk to women, especially about theology
 - 'Jews have no dealings'...can be translated 'Jews use nothing in common'

- Forbidden to eat or drink with Samaritan. Shock is that Jesus would willingly use her cup to drink.
- V. 10 – gift of God
 - Shows salvation is granted, not earned (Ephesians 2:8)
 - Jesus is ‘gift of God’ – [John 3:16](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [Ephesians 5:25](#)
 - ‘living water’ – term used to refer to river or spring. This well is dead and stagnant. He offers her the good stuff.
 - Abundant references in OT...[Psalm 42:1-2](#); [Isaiah 55:1](#); [Jeremiah 2:13](#); [Zechariah 13:1](#); [14:8](#)
 - [Psalm 36:9](#); [Jeremiah 17:3](#)
 - Clear reference to Holy Spirit
 - [John 7:37-39](#)
 - He will produce life and vitality in your soul
- V. 11-12 – shows her misunderstanding. Just like Nicodemus, she interprets what he says physically.
 - ‘our father Jacob’ – assumes she is truly ones in line with lineage of faith
 - Appeals to her religious heritage instead of responding to the physical presence of God directly in front of her.
- V. 13 – thirsty again...physical will always run out and disappoint
- V. 14 – spring of water...
 - [Isaiah 12:3](#); [44:3](#); [49:10](#); [55:1](#)
- V. 15 – still doesn’t get it. She is in spiritual darkness, needs to be illuminated. So Jesus is going to confront her sin, which is what is keeping her in spiritual darkness.
- V. 20 – he’s a prophet who knows stuff...immediately changes the subject. People tend to squirm when their sin is confronted. She is dodging the real issue because it hurts.
 - ‘on this mountain’ – Mt. Gerazim...rich history going back to end of Deuteronomy. Site of pronouncement of blessings for obedience. Towered above Shechem...the property Jacob owned where he dug a well (Gen. 33)
 - Samaritans built their temple on that mountain ~400BC. Jews destroyed it in 128BC. Added to the tensions.
- V. 21 – place of worship is no longer going to matter...God is not defined by, nor confined to a place.
- V. 22 – they only had Pentateuch, thus a partial revelation of God. Jews had full revelation from God.
 - [Romans 9:4-5](#)
 - Right understanding of God, salvation came through Jews because they were lineage of the Messiah.
- V. 24 – God is spirit...reason why idols are condemned...God is not physical. Not confined to physical place, can worship anywhere.
 - Worship in spirit and truth...true worship happens when God’s Spirit reveals truth to us.
 - Holy Spirit helps us in worship...connects our soul to his

- Prays for us (Romans 8:6)
 - Teaches us word of Christ (John 14:26)
 - Tells us we are loved (Romans 5:5)
- V. 26 – Messiah will explain it all
 - “I am, the one who speaks to you.”

John 4:27-45

- V. 30 – keep that in mind for the backdrop of what Jesus is about to say
- V. 34 – food is to do his will...again, not physical, but spiritual nourishment.
 - 5:30; 6:38; 7:18; 8:50; 9:4; 10:37-38; 12:49-50
- V. 35 – typically a gap of patient waiting between planting and harvesting...not so here.
 - Lift up your eyes and look at the harvest! Remember the backdrop...they are the harvest.
 - Others did the planting/sowing work...John the Baptist and his followers, the OT prophets, Jesus’ own conversation...but the disciples get to harvest.
- V. 42 – Savior of the world (1 John 4:14)
 - Notice the pattern...Jesus encounters Nicodemus in Judea, the Samaritan woman in Samaria, then Gentiles next in chapter 4 and into chapter 12.
 - Sound familiar? Follows post-Pentecost pattern in Acts 1:8.
- After this great witness, testifying to Jesus’ divinity and saving power in Samaria of all places, he heads back into Jewish territory of Galilee. What happens? Not honored.
 - Yes they ‘welcomed’ him, but only for his miracles. Continued theme of Jewish rejection of Jesus.

Application

- He must increase, I must decrease...how make him bigger in my life?
- The Gospel goes out to all, even those we don’t like.
- Fill your soul, not just your body (living water; v. 34 do will)
- Look at the harvest...open your eyes to those around you
- She had an 8-word testimony. Incredible results.