

Living Water
John 4:1-26

Review:

1. Evangelism often requires us to reach across all sorts of barriers, not allowing ourselves to be sidetracked by controversies that have no eternal meaning.
2. While it is helpful to start a gospel conversation by acknowledging the brokenness in people's lives, we cannot ignore the problem of sin that lies at the root of all such brokenness.
3. The gospel must focus on Jesus, Who is the only One Who can bring us close to God.

Reflect:

1. What racial, cultural, creedal, or political barriers do you find it hard to reach across? Do you personally know anyone who lies on the other side of one of those barriers? What steps can you take to befriend that person?
2. In what areas of your life do you need more of Christ's living water? Is there something of which you need to repent in order to experience more of Jesus' life-giving presence?

Go further: Read John 4:27-42

1. In verse 28, what did the woman leave behind and where did she go?
2. What two things does the woman say to the men in verse 29? What did they do as a result?
3. In verse 31, what do Jesus' disciples want Him to do? What does He say to them in response?
4. In verse 34, what does Jesus say is food for Him?
5. In verse 35, what does Jesus say about the fields? What do you think He is really talking about?
6. What sort of fruit does Jesus say the one who reaps will receive? Who will share in this harvest?
7. In verse 38, what does Jesus say He sent His disciples to reap? Who were some of the people who had labored before them in the gospel ministry?
8. What reason does verse 39 give for the Samaritans' belief in Jesus?
9. In verse 40, what did the Samaritans ask Jesus to do? Given what we learned in verse 9, why would this have been a significant request?
10. What reason does verse 41 give for the Samaritans' belief in Jesus?
11. In verse 42, what do the Samaritans say about the importance of the woman's testimony?
12. What do the Samaritans say they know about Jesus?

Summary and Application:

1. In leaving behind her water jar and in refusing to eat, both Jesus and the Samaritan woman say a lot about their priorities. Examine your own priorities. How important is evangelism for you?
2. In verse 37, Jesus says, "One sows, and another reaps." Think about your own conversion to Christ: how many different people helped "sow" the seed of faith in you? Who "reaped," or helped you to place your trust in Christ? How can you follow the example of the sowers and reapers?
3. Given the Samaritans' comments in verse 42, what is more important: the evangelist or the gospel? How does that truth help us keep our evangelistic efforts in the proper perspective?