

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

July 1, 2020

At Church and on Conference Call

John 4: 39 - 42

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Verse 39

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.”

*This verse speaks of the power of testimony. (Pastor Tom thought we might need to get into the routine of someone sharing a testimony during Worship services to tell how God got each of us through this Corona Virus ordeal.)

*Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman one on one even though it was culturally inappropriate for a Jew to converse with a Samaritan as well as a man to converse with a woman. But this woman testifies to others which then has multiple effects on many others.

*When Jesus had the urgent need (‘must needs’) to go to Samaria, it was not just for this woman by the well but for others and then for an entire revival in a city!

*We don't know the outcomes of our testimonies. Pastor Tom used the example of Josh Plummer and April... how April began to bring her Bible to church after Tom had started mentoring him. Now April has been encouraged to grow in her relationship with Jesus. We can all use the encouragement of another's testimony.

*The Samaritan woman had to experience and accept Jesus into her heart. Jesus' actions and her will collided.

*Back in John 4: 28, the woman left her pot and went back to the city to speak to the men. In both verse 29 and 39 it is made clear that she told the men that Jesus told her everything she had ever done. Perhaps some of these men were former lovers of this woman. When the bonds of love are broken there is pain. Pastor Tom asked us to close our eyes to visualize a person who had hurt us a one point. How willing would we be to share Jesus with anyone who had caused us pain? We need to remember that Jesus is the Savior of the world, not just the ones we want to be saved!

[Additional input to this verse from Pastor Jon and Jill not shared during Bible Study]

In Guideposts' "Mornings with Jesus", executive editor Rick Hamlin recalls the story of the Samaritan woman in detail. Then he adds this insight: *"But the thing that hit me, as I was listening to the story, was how Jesus knew everything about her, more than she could possibly say. Somehow I found that reassuring. It reminded me that of all the stuff I bring up in prayer, Jesus knows it all, better than I do."*

Verse 40

“So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.”

*This interaction is significant because there was such a big racial divide during this time between the Jews and Samaritans. (Sound familiar?)

*They were taught to hate each other so that down through the generations they didn't even know why they hated each other.

*Racial division has been around since Cain and Abel and ever since then people have tried to bridge the gap by side-stepping Jesus.

*This verse demonstrates how Jesus is the key to breaking down dividing walls. The devil knows Jesus is the key to hope so he'll do all he can to steer us away from Jesus. (Recall the song, “Jesus is the Answer”) But people have often used Jesus for their own personal gain, putting a black eye on Christianity.

*But Jesus accepts the Samaritans' invitation to stay in the city to preach.

Verse 41

“And many more believed because of his own word;”

*Hearing a testimony is different than having a testimony. This verse shows us that you cannot get around having a believing relationship with Jesus.

Matthew 7: 21 - 23

“21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

*How many people think that coming to Church or doing 'churchy things' will get them to heaven? It is not by good works. The Bible has one message - what will you do with Jesus?

Verse 42

“And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”

*This verse addresses the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

*The men were giving the credit to what they heard Jesus preach, not to the woman's words. 'We're glad you have Jesus but we are more glad that we believe in Him.' They knew the importance of a personal knowledge and salvation from Jesus. They heard and responded themselves, personally. They realized that Jesus is a personal Savior to them as well as the Savior of the world. Jesus did not die for Mount Olive Church alone, He died for the entire world!

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*

To Pastor Tom and Sherri:
May the Lord bless you as you start your 25th year
at Mount Olive Church!

