Anatomy of a Witness

John 4:1-26

Introduction:

I. Don’t get Drawn into Peripheral Issues – 4:1-3

“Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and ﻿﻿baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples (*did*), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.”

He did not get involved in the petty arguments of the Jews. John had answered on his part, so case closed.

II. Follow the Leading of God – 4:4-6

A. He Must Go through Samaria – 4:4

“But He needed to go through Samaria.”

Pious Jews did not go through Samaria. They were a half-breed- Jewish and some Gentile people. Assyria took half of the people of the ten Northern tribes (called Israel) to other conquered countries and brought half of those people back to Israel. So, no patriotism. No common cause.

Jews would cross Jordan as a by-pass. Jesus had something else in mind. He needed to meet a woman at a well. We are not told that He knew all of the details of the meeting. Nor will you! He did know that he must go through Samaria. So He went.

B. He Needed to Go to Sychar – 4:5

“So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that ﻿﻿Jacob ﻿﻿gave to his son Joseph.”

Joseph asked that his bones be saved until God took the Nation out of Egypt. (Gen. 50:48-49) Joseph’s bones were saved for about 500 years, carried up to Canaan and then buried in that plot. (Joshua 24:32)

C. He Needed to Stop at Jacob’s Well – 4:6

“Now Jacob’s well was there.” (2,000 years after Jacob dug it)

“Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.” (Jacob’s well is still there. 2000 years later I drank from it.)

The time, according to Roman time was 6:00 PM. Jewish time 12:00 noon. Jesus was tired. He sat on the well while His disciples went for food.

III. Make Contact with the Person – 4:7-8

A. Find a Common Interest – 4:7

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

Give the person a chance to do something for you. You are, in a sense, it his/her debt. This gives this woman “self-worth.”

B. Don’t Fake It – 4:8

People eventually see through hypocrisy.

“For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.”

He really was thirsty and had no one to help Him. He had no bucket to draw water.

IV. Expect Some Objections – 4:9

If the person doesn’t think of one Satan will

“Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For ﻿﻿Jews have no dealings with ﻿﻿Samaritans.)” [John adds]

A. We Are Not of the Same Race, Nationality –

You are a Jew, I am a Samaritan.

B. Our Families Don’t Like Each Other –

Jews did not like Samaritans and Samaritans did not like Jews.

V. Know the Message Well – 4:10-26

A. The Message is the Same

The requirement is the same. Believe Jesus and He will give you eternal life. Chapter 3 It has always been that same requirement from the fall and will continue to the end of the Millennium. However…

B. The Presentation may be Different – 4:10﻿

1. He Starts where She is

She understands the need for physical water.

“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.”

That “if” clause is 2nd class. It should be translated’. If you knew Who it is (and you don’t) She does of know who He is. She is still thinking about physical water.

Nicodemus knew physical birth – Jesus went from that to spiritual birth. Jesus will now go from physical water to living water.

2. She does not Get His Meaning – 4:11-12

a. You lack the physical tools to get water

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” (like Nic)

Jesus has her attention, but she is still thinking physical water.

b. You would have to be greater than Jacob.

“Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?” Jesus did not argue the point.

4. Jesus Continues His Presentation – 4:13-14

a. Your water is temporary – 4:13 ﻿

“Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,” - It does not satisfy.

b. My water is permanent – 4:14

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“but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

5. She Asks for the Water – 4:15

a. She still is not clear on the water –

“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 wants the water He offers so that she won’t have to work as hard.

b. Jesus gives her a sign –

He knows what no human stranger could know

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

1). She answers with a partial-truth - “I have no husband,”

2). Jesus gives the Reeeest of the story.

“You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

6. She Recognizes Him as a Prophet – 4:19 ﻿

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can perceive that you are a prophet.”

The Samaritans accepted only the five books of Moses. They had their own version called “the Samaritan Pentateuch” She knew the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:18 - “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you {Moses} from among their brethren, and ﻿﻿will put My words in His mouth, ﻿﻿and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”

7. She Throws in a “Red Herring” – 4:20

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

a. Jesus set the record straight – 4:21-22

“Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.”

Remember in verse one Jesus did not get caught up in the controversy about His and John’s baptism? That was peripheral issue. This issue is central to His message.

Salvation is of the Jews. Jerusalem is the place of Worship. But that is a dead issue now that Messiah has come.

b. He introduced a new truth – 4:23-24

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Since this new message is for the whole world and because God is spirit, the worship will be spiritual, not spatial.

Salvation in from the Jews. Does not mean that all Jews are or will be saved. It means that God chose Abraham and his family to be the means of salvation of all mankind. The Savior would come through the Jews and bring salvation to the world.

8. She Moves One Step Closer – 4:25

“The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah ﻿﻿is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, ﻿﻿He will tell us all things.”

9. Jesus Gives One Final Revelation – 4:26

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“Jesus said to her, ﻿﻿“I who speak to you am *He.*” his is tantamount to saying outright, “I am the Messiah”

He did not do that in Judea or in Galilee. It was not yet time for that move. But here in Samaria the word would not carry into Judea right away and cause problems prematurely.

Conclusion: