

LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD

Stories for *Easier Evangelism* (Part 11)

“The Bad Samaritan - Forgiven of a Guilty Past”

INTRO: We arrive at the final two lessons in the series on “Light Up Your World – Stories for Easier Evangelism”. *God’s role* is to create opportunity. The *Holy Spirit’s* assignment is to convict of sin, convince of guilt, and draw to the righteousness of Christ (Jn. 16:7-11; 6:44; 2 Cor. 5:21). *Our job* is to have the awareness to see and the courage to seize opportunities to enter into spiritual conversations with clarity, esp. about Jesus. *Success is* obedience to witness not to win. Conversations (mostly using our God-given styles) are what we do, conversion belongs to God – makes for easier evangelism. This lesson and the next we are by-standers in a spiritual conversation – each beginning with a question and each ending in someone’s salvation. First is a familiar story from John 4 (interestingly after John 3 conversion of Nicodemus – polar opposites). Gospel is for everyone! Heard of the Good Samaritan? She is the Bad. Notice, why this story unfolds.

SETTING (vv. 1-6): Hot and humid day maybe in July over 100°. Jesus and His group are traveling from Jerusalem (Judea) to Galilee (75 miles). Probably left at sunrise, now noon (why noon?) – tired and thirsty. Jesus was thirsty and knew it. She was thirsty and didn’t know it (John 7:37-38). It was a “divine appointment” (v. 4 “had to pass ...”). MAP ...

I. HE MADE CONTACT (vv.7-8)

- A. Jesus seized the opportunity the Father provided. He courageously stepped into it in spite of barriers (religious wall, gender wall, racial wall, and a moral wall). Prejudice can be a barrier.
- B. He was available to engage. Inconveniently, He went out of His way to connect with her.

II. HE MADE CONVERSATION (vv. 9-15)

Began with a request (spiritual starter questions). Longest recorded conversation of Jesus. Conversation was seasoned with Grace and Truth. Who He is was focus of the conversation – and He refused to be distracted (happens often in sharing). Jesus is the issue – not religion, church, baptism, etc. Notice His offer: *He is offering not to quench her thirst (physical) but to banish it once and for all (spiritual)!* She is skeptical and sarcastic. With a “Who do you think you are” question.

III. HE CREATED CONFRONTATION (vv. 16-18)

- A. He Challenged her at the point of her NEED. She had a guilty past (who doesn’t) as she desperately searched for meaning and fulfillment. She was lonely with a hole in her heart no man could fill!
- B. Principle: *No conversion without conviction*. She was a sinner in need of a Savior. She must see her hopeless condition. Note her increasing understanding of Jesus: A Jew (vv. 7-10). Greater than Jacob (vv. 11-15), a prophet (vv. 16-24), the Christ (vv. 25-30).

IV. SHE EXPERIENCED CONVERSION (vv. 19-27)

- A. She (enemy?) tries to change the subject. Issue is not where but WHO you worship! He wants her to see He can quench her thirsty soul and be deserving of her worship (v. 26 “I am He”).
- B. (v. 27) – Between vv. 26 & 27 she is converted! How know? She saw her need (v. 15), saw her sin (v. 19), and saw who Jesus was (v. 26). Left her pot to tell. With one sip of faith her deepest thirst is quenched. Disciples return from Publix (took 12 men!). They were amazed Jesus was conversing with such a person with all the existing barriers.

V. SHE MADE CONFESSION (vv. 28-43)

- A. Testimony (vv. 28-30) – Now the whole town is coming – hard to believe story. All is coming – hard to believe story. All knew her past. She just told her story (no Bible, no theology) just life change.
- B. Follow Up (vv. 39-43) - Jesus stays two more days and many come to “believe in Him because of the woman’s story.” When Jesus forgives a guilty past and you get living water for life, you must tell!

VI. VALUABLE LESSONS

- A. No one is too sinful to be saved. Everyone matters.
- B. No one is too lost to be found (Demoniac, Saul).
- C. No one can be saved without seeing their need.
- D. No one who faces their past will be turned away.
- E. No one who meets Jesus will ever be the same again.

CONC: God leads us to find others so they can find Him. What a story! What a Savior? **ILLUS:** Priscilla Jane Owens’ Hymn “Jesus Saves” ... indeed He does – and He uses us in the process (vv. 35-38)! What a privilege. Next week read Acts 8:26-39.