

Fishing for Men #2

Pray: That you will learn witness like Jesus did.

Read: John 4:4-24; My lecture notes -Personal Evangelism #1- in the Resources section.

A carefully prepared testimony and gospel presentation are a must in every Christian's spiritual arsenal. Knowing you can use those "tools" at any time enables you to relax and engage with a person as the Spirit leads. When we trust God this way He opens doors of opportunity like the one recorded in John 4:4-42. Discover the value of engaging unbelievers in focused yet natural conversation.

1. What is significant about this story taking place in Samaria?
2. Since "nice" girls did not come out to draw water at noontime ("the sixth hour") why do you think Jesus risked his reputation to ask a favour of this woman?

The Father's will and purpose for mankind caused Jesus to seek this woman out. His attitude was always, "not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). This meant He was prepared to sacrifice even His reputation and standing in the eyes of His own disciples(v.27) in order to help this woman

3. How would you describe the woman's response (v.9)? How did Jesus turn the tables on her in verse 10?

By beginning with her point of interest, "water", Jesus was not only addressing a "felt need" in her life but He was able to lead into a conversation about spiritual matters. This approach does work, but don't get caught up trying to find spiritual parallels for everything. Engage naturally in conversation and look for an opening. An opening could come from sharing an experience or a recent conversation you had with another person. If you're relaxed but determined, an opportunity will come.

5. In the woman's reply (v.11), what was she really saying?
6. Why does Jesus change the conversation so abruptly to her personal life (Vv.16-18)? What strikes you about the way Jesus responds to her claim not to have a husband?

Jesus revelation to the woman that she had had 5 husbands and was now living in a de-facto relationship was a "word of knowledge"- one of nine spiritual gifts God gave to Christians to use in the expansion of His Kingdom (1Corinthians 12:8). When you are witnessing it is important to be reaching out for a Word of Knowledge like the one Jesus gave this woman-sharing one will help smash the "walls" of resistance down.

9. Why do you think she changed the conversation to focus on a religious controversy (v.19)?
10. What do you think Jesus meant when He told her that God is interested in worshippers who do so in "Spirit and truth"?

This woman knew the truth about herself: she was a sinner. God knew too and still sought her as a worshipper! That is awesome truth to share with others God is looking for you! He's seeking worshippers; they can come as they are without having to hide their flaws.

Pray together; ask God to make you sensitive to His leading and to the needs of others.