

Bear Fruit
The Fruit of Evangelism
John 4:1-42
June 17/18, 2017

Hello Summit Church, my name is Will Toburen and I'm one of your pastors.

Let me begin by saying Happy Father's Day Weekend! So dads, if you still have kids at home, or if you're visiting with your adult kids, I want to give you a fun little exercise to do with your them this weekend. For a good laugh ask them about when you embarrassed them the most.

My daughter, who just graduated from high school last week, quickly chimed in, "Dad, you remember that when you bought us that CD from High School Musical?" She said, "I remember one time when you had to drive mom's van one evening (as if that weren't embarrassing enough) and mom and I got in the car the next morning and almost had our eardrums blown out because you had cranked the High School Musical CD."

So, yes...on this Father's Day I confess I kinda liked watching High School Musical w/ my daughter. Ask your kids today...and have a good laugh!

I have the joy this weekend of teaching the second message in our series "Bear Fruit." Pastor Raudel started us off last week by doing a masterful job helping us reflect on the role continual repentance plays in our lives. So, if you didn't get a chance to hear it go listen to it on our website at summitrdu.com and be blessed.

This weekend as we continue in our series we're going to look at the 'Fruit of Evangelism.' I don't want to assume that everyone knows what I mean when I say 'evangelism', so let me give you a definition:

- "Evangelism is talking to others about the gospel with an aim to persuade."

Robert Coleman, in his book the Master Plan of Evangelism said that "men were to be his method of winning the world to God."

Remember, "...we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

Now, I know that as soon as I mention the word evangelism it conjures up any number of emotions...some good and some bad.

- Some of you likely get excited about the idea of actively sharing your faith and perhaps think back on some really positive experiences that you've had with people.
- Yet for others of you, you've only had negative experiences and the idea of actively sharing your faith elicits great fear and trepidation.

- Sharing the gospel in college: Friend - “Death is the end...just want to live it up right now and when it’s done, it’s done...put me in the box and throw some dirt on me.”

So, this weekend I want to challenge you to enter into our study of God’s word with a willingness to let the Holy Spirit speak and lead you as we look at an encounter that Jesus has with a woman from Samaria.

So, if you have your Bibles I want to invite you to turn with me to John 4. In just a moment we’re going to start reading from vs. 7, but as you’re turning there let me give you a little context.

John 4: Context

- Jesus has left Judea and is making his way to Galilee and is traveling through Samaria.
- Jews had a deep hatred and disdain for a few of reasons:
 - **First the Jews saw them as an inferior race:** When the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians many of the Jews were deported and replaced with foreigners resulting in intermarriage. Years later this would lead many Jews to view the Samaritans as an inferior race of half-breeds.
 - **Second, the Jews believed the Samaritans held false religious beliefs:**
 - About 130 years before this encounter a Jew by the name of Manasseh defected to Samaria.
 - He established new places of worship around some ancient historical sites and claimed that the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was corrupt and the temple built on Mt. Gerizim was the true temple.
 - In addition the Samaritans incorporated their own version of some of the Old Testament books (Pentateuch) while also omitting many they thought were too pro-Jewish, like the Psalms.
- So, Jesus is making his way through Samaria and because he’s tired from the journey he sits by Jacob’s well at noon.

So, with this context, let’s start reading in vs. 7:

“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.””

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know, we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ.) When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

28, "So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" they went out of the town and were coming to him."

39, "Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you have said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

This is the word of the Lord

Prayer of Illumination:

Characteristics of Faithful Evangelism:

For the next few minutes I want to share with you 5 characteristics of faithful evangelism that we see from the encounter Jesus has with the Samaritan woman. The first two deal with our disposition towards others ('how') and the last 3 characteristics focus more on the content ('what') we should say.

(Our disposition - The art of evangelism)

1. Faithful evangelism requires boldness

- a. You see this in both Jesus *and* the woman
- b. Jesus: First, Jesus talks to her...which surprised even her.
 - i. Vs. 7, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"
 - ii. Let's not miss all of the cultural implications...
 1. She's a woman

- a. Vs. 27 reminds us that the disciples ‘marveled that he was talking with a woman.’ And they weren’t about to speak up.
 - b. *“Some Jewish thought held that for a rabbi to talk much with a woman, even his own wife, was at best a waste of time and at worst a diversion from the study of Torah, and therefore potentially a great evil that could lead to hell.”¹*
- 2. She’s a Samaritan (already seen the political, societal, and religious differences that had led to disdain between the two groups)
- 3. She’s a social outcast
 - a. She’s coming to the well at noon...alone
 - b. Common practice was to come to the well early in the morning while it was cool in order to draw from the well...it was hard work and water was needed for the day.
 - c. We see that Jesus has intimate knowledge of her sin
- iii. Yet Jesus boldly speaks to her totally disregarding the implications because He’s radically convinced that He has what she needs!
- c. Woman: We also see the same boldness in the woman, right?
 - i. She goes back into the town...where things were already bad for her (as evidenced of being at the well at noon) and she’s fully aware that things could get even worse!
 - ii. She runs boldly into town and says to anyone that will listen to her *“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”*
- d. Let’s be clear, if we boldly share our faith proclaiming that salvation can only be found by faith in the finished work of Jesus then there’s going to be pushback.
- e. Especially from a culture that believes no one person or group should claim to have the truth and to believe so is both arrogant and narrow minded.
- f. Illustration: But think about that this way. My oldest child has Type 1 Diabetes. Imagine we go to her endocrinologist and they prescribe an experimental drug that actually causes her pancreas to rejuvenate and begin secreting insulin again. Now, it would only be right for us to go to great lengths to talk it...and there is not one person in here that would say that is either arrogant or narrow.
- g. So yes, it is a truth claim, but everyone makes truth claims (even those who say it’s wrong to make them--which, as you know, is in itself a truth claim).
 - i. We must be winsome and humble and help people faithfully consider the person and work of Jesus!
- h. The reason many of us don’t possess this type of boldness is FEAR!
 - i. We listen to that little voice inside our heads that says, *“What are they going to say...what are they going to think...what are they going to do?”*, and it paralyzes us.

¹ D.A. Carson. The Gospel According to John, (p.227)

- ii. We need to listen to that louder voice that God is speaking over us that says, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**
- i. Illustration: Alex... "talk to me"
 - i. We need to go to the Father again and again and again saying "Talk to me"...Remind me of who I am in you...remind me of your promises...remind me that you are with me and that nothing can frustrate the plans of God!
- j. Faithful evangelism requires boldness...but that's not all...

2. Faithful evangelism is deeply personal and relational

- a. Again, you can tell he cares about her personally because He's willing to engage with her in spite of the chasm that exists between them as a result of gender, race and social standing.
- b. But again notice *how* Jesus engages with her. He simply slows down and takes advantage of the environment and circumstances that are right there in front of Him at the well.
- c. Listen, as Pastor JD reminds us all the time, *"Evangelism is doing everyday life with gospel intentionality."*
 - i. Illustration: (Carolyn Wilson)
 1. One of our members at our Blue Ridge Campus shared with Bowe Butler, our Spiritual Formations Pastor how God has been teaching her to slow down and take advantage of the everyday.
 2. She and her husband have a garden on the side of their house that they love to work in and have been for 20 years.
 3. So in an effort to slow down she decided that when people walked by she'd wander to the edge of her garden to stop and speak to them.
 4. As she's done so she's met 3 widows (one across the street, one down the street, and one behind her) that she didn't know.
 5. Now, when the ladies walk by she stops and listens to what's going on in their lives and to take it a step further she's keeping a prayer journal by her garden to write down things she can be praying for.
 6. One of the ladies came by her home the other night to bring her flowers.
 7. You see what's happening...relationships are forming that will open up doors for the gospel!
 8. Everyday living...gospel intentionality
- d. **Year of Disciple Making** - small groups / help think through how to share their faith

- i. F. - Friendship -
- ii. I. - Initiate to the Spiritual
- iii. S - Share the Gospel
- iv. H - Help them make a decision

e. Friendship is the first step

- i. I read an article this week that discussed some of things Christians do that non Christians despise. And one of them was that they stink at friendship.
 - 1. One of the obstacles was that very few Christians actually pursue authentic relationships with non Christians. Relationships where you've invited people into your home who think differently politically, socially, and spiritually...for the purpose of building a friendship.
 - 2. Let's be clear people can tell when we treat them like a project rather than a person.
 - 3. Now of course we want to get to the gospel, because we know that's what people need more than anything, but as Reggie Joyner said:
 - a. *"People will never believe you love them if they don't believe you like them."*
 - 4. Your approach matters: Not only that many non-Christians have a negative view of Christianity and evangelism because of the harshness and insensitivity of the approach being used.
 - a. When sharing your faith if you're unwilling to listen well, ask good questions, and genuinely care deeply then people will walk away feeling used...like a project...a means to an end.

f. Evangelism in Community: Often we take a lone ranger approach to sharing our faith. Yes we need to always be willing and prepared to share the hope that is in us.

- i. One of the most effective ways to evangelize however is in the context of community. Jesus told his disciples, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*
- ii. People will see the gospel put on display when they begin to have shared experiences with the community of believers you are a part of...more specifically your small group.
- iii. This is why we encourage every small group to have Missional hangouts where you're creating opportunities to intentionally invite the friends you've made into relationships with other Christians.
- iv. And as those relationships blossom they are able to see and hear just how Jesus meets their greatest need.

- g. As we look at the third characteristic we start to see a bit more of what Jesus confronts her with...

The Content of the Gospel: (The science)

3. Faithful evangelism shows how Jesus is all-satisfying

- a. In vs. 10 as He introduces the idea of living water, Jesus begins to gently help her see that what she needs more than anything in the world is Him...the one who can truly satisfy her every longing.
- b. That's why He says in vs. 13, *"everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (reference to the Holy Spirit)
- c. Do you see what He's doing? He's saying to her, "My salvation is as necessary to you spiritually as water is to you physically"²
 - i. Your soul craves for something like your body craves water when you are really thirsty...and if you don't get it you die.
 - ii. NEED ILLUSTRATION HERE
 - iii. Jesus says, "I have what you are looking for."
 - iv. Vs. 14, He goes even further: "I will put a spring in you that wells up to eternal life."
- d. Bill Hybels: Just Walk Across the Room
 - i. To those filled with shame, "Grace and forgiveness can come your way."
 - ii. To those bound up in destructive habits, When the Sons sets you free, you'll be free indeed."
 - iii. To the weak, "Strength from God--the Strength-Giver--can be yours for the asking."
 - iv. To the weary, "Jesus promises rest for your soul."
 - v. To the poor, richness of spirit.
 - vi. To the lacking, provision in due time.
 - vii. To the grieving, consolation and comfort.
 - viii. To the sick and dying, eternal life and new bodies in the life hereafter.
- e. Verse where she drops her pot and runs to the city...

4. Faithful evangelism confronts sin

- a. To help her see the depth of her need (because up to this point she's still not seeing it clearly) he gently, yet truthfully, shows her how she's trying to quench her thirst...it's through marriage / sex.
 - i. Vs. 16, *"Go, call your husband and come here."* The woman answered him, *"I have no husband."* Jesus said to her, *"You are right in saying, 'I*

² Keller sermon

have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

- ii. You cannot read this and not cringe a bit at the awkwardness of that moment.
- b. We're all thirsting for something. She was trying to quench her spiritual thirst through sex...believing that the next guy...the next sexual encounter would finally quench her thirsty soul. Yet after every encounter she wakes up thirsty...she wakes up disappointed.
- c. I've heard it described like trying to bail water out of a boat with a strainer. You keep bailing but nothing ever changes. The thirst is never quenched...she's in a dry and weary land and she's drinking the sand.
 - i. For her it was sex, but what is it for you?
 - ii. Is it that promotion?
 - iii. Is it finally getting married?
 - iv. Is it financial stability, or the new home / car?
 - v. Is it the acceptance of your peers?
- d. Faithful evangelism will show how Jesus is all satisfying by comparing it to the cosmic disappointment that is found when we turn good things into ultimate things...the disappointment that is found when we worship created things rather than the Creator.
- e. Now, this was an awkward moment right? But I want you to see how Jesus both confronts her sin and extends grace. You say, "Will, how do you know this?"
 - i. First, you know he extends grace because He offers her living water being fully aware of her deep sin struggles. In other words He offered her living water not because she deserved it but because He is a good, benevolent, gracious Savior.
 - 1. It wasn't like he offered her living water and then found out all about her sexual sin and decided to renege the offer. So it wasn't a challenge to go work hard and get her life together...
 - 2. Gift that is given...come to me and I will give you living water...
 - 3. Grace is freely given and extended to her.
 - 4. Where some of you are...
 - a. You just can't believe that grace is free...
 - b. Believe it must be earned...that you have to work to get the scales tipped in your favor.
 - c. Isaiah 55:1, Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without price."
- f. How can he do that? How is it that He can not judge and heap shame and condemnation upon her?

5. Faithful evangelism points directly to the cross

- a. Immediately after confronting her sin she tries to shift gears and turn it into a theological discussion.
 - i. “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet...”
 - ii. Which of the mountains was the true place of worship.
- b. Jesus helps her see that it’s neither...
 - i. **“Woman believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”**
- c. You see when Jesus speaks of the ‘hour’ that is coming...it’s a reference to His death.
- d. It’s a reference to the moment when Jesus would be taken to a different mountain.
- e. He’s pointing to the moment would drink the cup of God’s wrath all the way down to the dregs.
- f. Do you see it? Jesus would experience a cosmic spiritual thirst on the cross in order that He could give us living water...and satisfy the deepest longings of our souls.

Closing (vamp here)

There are two types of people here this weekend:

1. There are those who’ve experienced the living water that Jesus has to offer.
 - a. You’ve trusted Christ through faith and repentance.
 - b. God has called us to the mission and until you engage in it you’re never going to experience the fullness of joy God has for you.
 - c. When the disciples came back to find Jesus talking to the woman, after she left they encouraged him to eat.
 - d. Jesus looked at them and said, **“I have food to eat that you do not know about...My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”**
 - e. You see it? Jesus was nourished by people being transformed by the gospel.
 - f. Therefore we as Christians will only be fully nourished when we fully engage in faithful evangelism.
 - g. Jesus said to His disciples, “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”
 - h. *“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our dead bodies and if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped around their knees. If hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let no one go unwarned or unprayed for.”* Charles Spurgeon
 - i. Evangelistic studies
2. There are those of you here who are still dying of thirst.
 - a. You thought you’d find in your work, or in your marriage, or in your kids, or in your money...but you haven’t.
 - b. Today can be the day of your salvation if you will take and drink of the living water that Jesus offers.

- c. That happens when we come to him...confessing our sins...and believing that Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died.
- d. Come today and drink...

Prayer...