

“Let There Be Light”

John 4:7-19

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus 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.” ¹¹“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” ¹²Are 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?” ¹³Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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.” ¹⁵The 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.” ¹⁶He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” ¹⁷“I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The 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.” ¹⁹“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.”

The over-riding theme of this story of the Samaritan woman at the well is that Jesus is God in human flesh offering salvation to her as a gift. She must by faith, ask Jesus for this life-giving salvation. All of this is summarized in Vs10. ¹⁰Jesus 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.”

We are going to see that salvation or *living water*, involves putting together the truth about God, the truth about salvation, and the truth about ourselves.

First, we must know the truth about the God, who is offering us salvation. We are going to see later in this text that “God is spirit.”

This means that he is not a material being (he has no body), so he is everywhere present. God is all powerful and all knowing. (We will see how Jesus shows the woman his all knowing ability.) God is love. God is light. And, God is holy. These are just some of the attributes of God.

Because God is holy (perfect and pure in every way), he is separated from sinful people. But God is also love, so he provides a way for sinful people to come into right relationship with him. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and shed his blood for the forgiveness of sin.

The plan of salvation offered to us, begins with the awareness that we are sinners in need of salvation from sin, so that we can have a relationship with God (confession and repentance). Then we must believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins (faith). With the problem of sin solved by Jesus, we are ready to accept the person of God into our lives, so that we become the temple of God. With God living in us we have the fruit, gifts, and power of the Holy Spirit to help us become the person God wants us to be and to live our lives the way God wants us to live.

When all of this comes together we will have a peace that passes understanding because we will know that everything is right between us and God. We are given a new life, an abundant life, and a life of living water welling up to eternal life.

The problem of sin is because God is holy. The solution to sin is provided because God is love. The recognition of our sinfulness is realized in us because God is light. Salvation begins with an awareness that we are sinners. So, Jesus shed his light on the Samaritan so that the process of salvation could begin in her.

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husband and come back.”¹⁷“I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.¹⁸The 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.”¹⁹“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

The Lord never sugar-coats sin with unbelievers. Sin must be revealed in unbelievers because people are separated from God by sin. If we do not grasp our sinfulness, we will not seek the solution to sin in Jesus.

Jesus asked the Samaritan woman to go get her husband. Jesus, being the all knowing God, knew all about her marital history. But, Jesus was giving her a chance to confess her sin. Confession is simply stating the sin that God already knows about.

She confessed by saying “*I have no husband.*” Because God is light, he continued to reveal her past marital history of five husbands and the fact that she was currently living in sin with a man who was not her husband. She was shocked by Jesus’ revelation of her past sinful life. In fact, later she told the people from Sychar in vs29, ²⁹“*Come, see a man who told me **everything** I ever did.*”

In the presence of God as light, she could clearly see her sinfulness from God’s point of view. Though Jesus did not tell her *everything she ever did*, the light of God makes us feel that way. For unbelievers, the light of God shines on every corner of their lives to root out sin, so that it can be washed away by the living water and the blood of Jesus.

So many churches have abandoned teaching and preaching about sin. They say that sin is offensive to unbelievers and drives them away from the church. Some seeker sensitive churches do their best to never offend new people who come to church.

But when we do not preach on sin, forgiveness, the cross, and the blood of Jesus the world is **not** offended but God **is** offended. The Bible teaches that there can be no conversion without conviction of sin. And if this sounds like foolishness to the world, so be it. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says, ¹⁸*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

The Bible teaches that it is not for humans to try to convince other people of their sin. Conviction of sin is the work of God through the Holy Spirit. Only God can confront people with their sin in a way that will lead to salvation. In fact, I believe that a person's awareness of their sinfulness is the litmus test of whether God is working on them to bring them to salvation. John 16:7-8 says,

⁷*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.* ⁸*When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.*

In my 30 plus years of ministry, the Lord has given me hundreds of opportunities to share the love of God and plan of salvation. In every situation, I am looking for one thing that I know will lead to a person's salvation. That one thing is light. Is there light?

Genesis 1:3, *And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light.* At creation, God created light in the midst of darkness.

God is still creating light in the midst of the darkness of the unbeliever. Darkness is a disastrous condition that leads to eternal death. (1 John 1:5ff) But when God says "*Let there be light,*" there will always be light.

Without the light of God shining in the heart of the unbeliever, there will be no understanding of the truth of God, the truth of his plan of salvation through Jesus, or the truth about our sinfulness. Lord, *let there be light*.

Remember, to see the truth of the holiness of God and the love of God requires the light of God. Lord, *let there be light*.

To see the love and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross because of our sin, humbles us to declare, “*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, who saved a wretch like me.*” Lord, *let there be light*.

Even believers need the light of God to shine in our lives so that we can see the sin in our lives. Even believers need to be convicted of the sin in our lives because God hates sin.

- God hates sin because it **damages all of our relationships** both with God and others.
- God hates sin because it **damages our worship** of him.
- God hates sin **but he** always **loves the sinner**, fortunately for us.

Jesus was concerned that the Samaritan woman saw the light of truth in the person of God, salvation of God, and the sinfulness of people. With his presence and words Jesus declared, *Let there be light,*” and there was light.

Let us ask God to call light into the personal darkness of our own hearts and minds so that we can become the people he wants us to be. And let us ask God to call light into the darkness of our unbelieving friends and family so that they can see the truth of God, the truth of salvation, and the truth of their sin.