

Lift Up Your Eyes John 4

As you prepare to launch out into the fields of your respective campuses and/or communities; I want to exhort you tonight the way that Jesus exhorted his disciples in John 4. We will be reading from 4:4-42. Seeing it is a long passage, while we read, I want to invite you to consider the first 2 truths I hope to share with you from this text:

- 1) Not much has changed since the time of this story! *Look for the similarities in the way people live.*
- 2) Many lives were changed over the course of this story! *Look for how the characters are confronted and conformed by Christ over the course of the story.*

Read the text.

- 1) **Not much has changed since the time of this story!** Did you notice some similarities between then and now? (Open the floor: possible others-people still need Jesus; still need food and water; still being changed

- **The physical is still distracting us from the spiritual.**

We see this with the woman:

9,11,12,15,20

We see this with the disciples:

27; 31

- **We are still seeking satisfaction in relationships.**

We see this in verses 15-18, 29 she declares he had told her all she had done, when what he said was, *“I know what you have been doing, you’ve been trying to slake your thirst with a guy; and you’ve gone through at least 6—and it’s not working for you...you should have come to me; and from there he proceeds to unpack the gospel for her.”* The reason she refers to this as, all she had ever done was because she made her life about filling the void in her bed, thinking somehow it would fill the void in her heart. The field you will encounter in college—very much the same!

- **We are still seeking salvation in religion.**

We this in verse 29: her response to conviction is religion; where do I need to go to make this right; equivalent today of, “I know I need to be in church!”

No! You need to be in Christ, not in church. Once you get in Christ; then go be a part of a local church.

- 2) **Many lives were changed over the course of this story !** Did you see any lives that were changed? The woman is the most obvious; the city; the disciples.

The disciples: went from seeing the wretchedness of the Samaritans to seeing the readiness of the Samaritans.

The city: many of them came to believe in Christ because of the witness of the woman and the word of Christ.

The woman:

Her view of herself: v.7 speaks of shame, guilt and isolation (she was an outcast); v. 29 speaks of a freedom, a new focus—she walks up to men and tells them of Christ.

Her view of men: before she met Jesus she went to men to meet her needs; after she met Jesus she went to men to implore them to go meet Jesus (I love her technique: she simply raises their interest enough to look and see for themselves...look at v. 29)

But both of these changed, because she met Jesus; and the most noticeable change in the story is how she viewed Jesus:

- **A Jew (v. 9)**—in confusion...why are you talking to me?
- **Sir (v. 11, 15)**—in curiosity...what are you talking about?
- **A prophet (v. 19)**—in confession...that is who I am.
- **The Christ (v. 29)**—in compelling...come see who He is.

The reason her view of self and men changed was because she encountered Jesus. And in light of who Jesus was; who she had been no longer mattered all that much.

Someone once said, “to see Jesus is to be changed.” It should be our prayer and practice that men and women would lift up their eyes for the first time and see Jesus for who he really is.

3) **Ways our life may change because the truths of this story.**

The way you live—are you focused on the physical, to the exclusion of the spiritual. If so, I implore you, lift up Your eyes; set your mind on things above; set your mind on God’s interest’s not man; seek first the kingdom. Nothing wrong with the disciples grabbing a hot dog in town—but I wonder if the vendor who sold them the dogs came out with the rest of them...I wonder if he wondered; Why didn’t you tell me this when we met in town?

The way you look—

@ the word...Do you see wretchedness; or do you see readiness? Do you see them as different—and thus unapproachable; or do you see them as deceived—and thus unavoidable?

@ worship...Jesus taught them—it’s not where, but who and how!

- Who—not about “our fathers” (v. 20); but THE Father (4x in 21,23,24)
- How—not according to tradition, but according to truth—confronted her with the fact that she was wrong in her approach to worship—not nice; but necessary

We don’t question the mountain nowadays, but we question the music; the melody...

Worship is a rhythm of revelation and response

@ the work...

He wants us to look--The fields were white...what color is your field?

He wants us to labor—he doesn’t just want us to see, he said in verse 38..I sent... (read verse)

We spoke of the progression in how Jesus was seen by the woman: A Jew in confusion; Sir in curiosity; A prophet as confession; The Christ in compelling others... Look at verse 42, as we close out tonight I want to show you the final reference...

This time it wasn’t made by the woman, but to the woman!
The Savior of the world... by her community

This is huge; in essence they are saying, we have come to see that He isn’t just for the Jews, He is for us too. And as they say that; I wonder—do you know this to be true still today. Jesus Christ came to be the Savior of the whole world. He alone can satisfy the eternal longing in our hearts. He alone can save us from the eternal wrath of God our sin has earned us. He alone! Do you know Him as a Jew? As a man worthy of respect? As a prophet—a good teacher? Or do you recognize Him as the Christ; the Savior of the World?