

Mission from a different perspective

Introduction

Have you ever looked at something and accepted it as one thing and then when your eyes are opened you realised it was something completely different? We can look at this world and think it's normal. This isn't normal! The world, as God first made it, was "Good" and one day, according to the last chapter of the Bible, God will restore all things. But for the time being: *"The World is the wrong side up it needs to be turned upside down, in order to be right side up!"* Billy Sunday (Evangelist)

- Instead of Love where He is Father and we are His Children
There is PREJUDICE = HATRED, and IGNORANCE = LACK OF LOVE
- Instead of Surrender where God is Creator and we are the created
there is LOVE OF SELF = PRIDE & ARROGANCE
- Instead of Obedience where He is Lord and King and we are His servants
there APATHY & EXCUSES & HYPOCRISY = DISOBEDIENCE

Read: John 4:27-42

Three things to pull out from the passage:

1. Press on now, without prejudice

You can imagine the disciples' reaction when they got back: What's going on? They were caught in the mindset that the Messiah was just for them - They were the chosen ones.

Jesus was for the Jews, not for the likes of Greeks and Romans, and certainly not for Samaritans. And definitely not for Samaritan women, and absolutely not Dodgy Samaritan women.

But things were happening. Unexpected things. The Samaritans were also encountering and believing in Jesus.

They needed to get themselves sorted and get over themselves right there, right now if they were going to be any use to Jesus' mission, *'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'* Acts 1:8

Questions: What does their dilemma say to you?

Who is your Samaritan?

What individual or group of people do you have issues with?

Usually it's someone not like us, who might that be?

If we are not prepared to reach out to all people, we cannot possibly obey Jesus' commission to *Go and make disciples of all nations* Matt 28

2. Press on now, denying self

²⁸ *Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town.* Nice little witness detail there – she left her jar. Last week we saw how she came to draw water. But instead she met with Jesus and received living water! Her spiritual thirst was quenched = a restored/saved life, new life/eternal life.

Leaving the jar behind symbolises the laying down her old life of physical worldly passions

and instead, now pressing on in her new life in Jesus, a life of love and power and obedience and faith.

Last week Martin described how this woman has probably gained a reputation and is possibly despised and reviled. By rushing back to the town and declaring ²⁹ *'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?'* she could be putting herself on the line!

But there is now something new about her, this new life seems to radiate out of her. The people could have written her off and mocked her, but they didn't, what they saw and heard drew them to Jesus.

What we are seeing here is a woman who has surrendered her old life to she Jesus. The outcome we observe in the town is a changed life Changing lives.

**Questions: Are you denying self?
Have you completely laid down and surrendered your life to Jesus?
Are you holding on to some of the old way of life?**

We like the idea of Jesus as Saviour but following Him as Creator and LORD is something else! Selfishness and selfish ambition means, that we take hold of the benefits of the new life but still desire after the old. Is it any wonder that some Christians continue to feel Spiritually thirsty? And their lives on not making the impact This Samaritan woman obviously did!

**Questions: Do I still try to drink from the old water?
What's your water jar you need to leave behind?**

3. Press on now, you're sent

³⁵ *Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"?*

The First Harvest at Pentecost (Late March – Beginning of April) The saying would be said in Dec/Jan dark winter months and it basically means, one day, one day the harvest will come, you'll just have to wait and see. We can adopt this sort of attitude in mission:

- Revival might happen one day, maybe. All we can do is keep sowing seeds and maybe finally one day people will show interest. And there will be a harvest. This attitude lacks the faith that God can move in power right now.

Question: How does this belief have the effect of holding us back?

- Revival might happen one day, when we done enough training, got more resources, when we've found an effective method - Then there will be a harvest. This too lacks faith, we are rusting in our own abilities and skills.

Question: How does this attitude also hold us back?

Jesus tells us to expect a very different outcome: *I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe (white) for harvest.* If the disciples would just look around, they would see the harvest, a group of Samaritans coming close (Samaritan men wore white robes).

Jesus tells us is we don't have to hope that one day there will be a harvest of people. The Harvest is there. That's not the problem. *'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Luke 10:2* That's the real problem.

**Questions: Will you take Jesus at his word, there is a harvest?
Therefore, will you avail yourself to him?
How will believing that there is already a harvest change your approach to evangelism?**

Conclusion

Pressing on right now, means we may have to get over a prejudice or a reservation about someone or a group of people.

Pressing on right now, means denying self. And surrendering our lives to Jesus.

Pressing on right now, means not waiting for the conditions to be right but availing ourselves for the harvest.

Sometimes you must look from a different perspective to see the prize.

