**A Lesson of Sharing from Jacob’s Well**

**John 4:3-9**

**Introduction:**

 A. Jesus passes through Samaria to get from Judea to Galilee.

 B. Jesus stops to rest at Jacob’s well at Sychar in Samaria.

 1. Being human as well as Divine, he became weary.

 2. Disciples go to buy food (v. 8).

 3. A Samaritan woman comes to draw water.

 C. Jesus’ dealings with the Samaritan woman is a wonderful example for personal evangelism.

D. Jesus illustrates four basic needs that each of us needs to recognize if the church is going to grow.

**Discussion:**

 **I. The Need That People Have for the Gospel.**

 A. Jesus needed water, the woman living water (vv. 7-15).

 B. Living water represents all benefits in Christ:

 1. “In whom ... (Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:14; 2:3)

 2. Abundant (to the full -NIV) living (John 10:10)

 a. Prayer and providence.

 b. Fellowship and hope.

 3. Everlasting life (v. 14)

 **II. The Need to Reach All People.**

 A. Even those of a despised race (v. 9; cf. John 8:48) — Gospel for all races (Acts 10:34, 35).

 B. Even those of immoral character (vv. 17,18) — Gospel changes people (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

 C. Even those of another religion (v. 20) — Paganism, Judaism, perverted Christianity.

 **III. The Need to Seize the Opportunity.**

 A. Even when tired and weary (v. 6).

 B. By recognizing and making the most of even casual openings.

 1. A conversation about drinking water turned to one of living water (v. 10)

 2. A remark about different places of worship used to teach about true worship (vv. 20-24).

 3. A request to eat used to teach about spiritual food (vv. 31-38).

 **IV. The Need to Teach Just One Person.**

 A. Two great lessons of all time first taught to one person.

 1. New birth to Nicodemus (John 3:1-5).

 2. The true nature of worship was explained to this woman (v. 24).

B. One person’s soul important enough to be taught.

 1. Soul of “a man” worth more than world. (Mk. 8:36,37).

 2. “ A man” of Ethiopia important to the Lord (Acts 8:27ff).

 C. One person’s potential influence could be great.

 1. This woman’s influence (vv. 28-30, 39-41).

**Conclusion:**

 I. Best bird hunters aim at one bird at a time rather than shooting into the entire flock.

II. We cannot *just* play to the crowds with planned efforts: gospel meetings, radio, tv, papers, door knocking blitz’s, visitation programs, etc. (Not against these, if any of these efforts reach just one in the crowd, it is worth the effort & expense)

 III. But, the church will not really grow until more Christians learn to imitate Jesus at Jacob’s well.