

TALKING POINTS

I SPEAK JESUS - THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

LEANING IN

If we are to follow Jesus, we need to sound like Him - we need to “speak Jesus”. We need to show the character of Jesus in our actions and our words. We need to imitate Him, His compassion and His mercy.

The gospel of John details a particular encounter where Jesus showed His character and gave us a model of how to “speak Jesus”. This was when He met a Samaritan woman at a well and they would have a conversation which would change both her life and the lives of people in her village.

In order for Jesus to even speak with the Samaritan woman, He had to go against many of the cultural norms of His day. Jesus had to ignore the low regard the culture had of women, as well as the low regard the Jews had of the Samaritans. Under normal cultural circumstances, Jesus would have been expected to view her with contempt, and refuse to speak with her. He did exactly the opposite.

Read John 4:4-42

How can we “speak Jesus” into today’s cultural divides?

LIVING IT OUT

In order to “speak Jesus” to our conflicted culture, we have to remember these truths about Jesus when we interact with those people in our lives who are “Samaritans” to us. Here are four keys we can take from Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman to help us minister to the outcasts of our culture:

Jesus Alone Satisfies - no other person except Jesus can satisfy our most fundamental needs. As Jesus revealed Himself to the Samaritan Woman, he sought to show her that He was the never-ending water she was so thirsty for.

Read Philippians 4:19, Ephesians 3:20

Can you share a time in your life when you came to the realization nothing in life would satisfy besides Jesus?

Jesus Is Not Phased By Our Sin - we can become all too easily focused on and put off by the sins of *others*. Jesus is not taken aback by our sin, He simply pursues and loves us, no matter what we’ve done.

Read 1 John 2:2, Romans 5:8

Why do we find ourselves thinking our sin is greater than what God can (or will) forgive?

Jesus Entered Her World - Jesus sought to listen to and understand the Samaritan woman before he proclaimed truth to her. If we are to speak Jesus, we have to “enter in” to the lives of others by listening first and showing compassion.

Read Mark 6:34, Matthew 9:36, Hebrews 4:15

How can we have compassion and “enter in” to the lives of people around us - even if we’re at odds with them?

God Changes Our Story And Gives Us A New Life For His Glory - if we are to “speak Jesus”, we need to believe and expect Jesus to change lives. No matter who someone is or what they’ve done, with God, all things are possible.

Read Romans 5:10, Hebrews 7:25

Is there someone in your life you may have given up on, and maybe it's time to reconsider?