

Habit 6: Sharing Your Faith

²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” ²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him. ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

John 4:25-30;39-42

Discussion

This chapter starts with Jesus traveling with his disciples through Samaria. While the disciples were running errands in a nearby town, Jesus sits by a well and strikes a conversation with a woman that came for water. This was a very peculiar event for that time and place, not only because the Jewish and Samaritan peoples hated each other, but because men did not talk to women that they did not know, especially when they were alone, and Jesus being a rabbi. They talk about religion, about the best way to connect with God and about her past relationships before Jesus reveals himself to be the Messiah. In the next few questions we will see what the woman, the disciples, the Samaritans and Jesus himself have to teach us about sharing our faith.

- 1. The disciples didn’t say anything when they saw Jesus with the Samaritan woman, even though they were clearly puzzled. They were probably uncomfortable, as they would not have approached a Samaritan women themselves. Can you think of times when your own prejudices or cultural background stops you from engaging in conversation with people about your faith?**
- 2. Jesus does not reveal that he is the Messiah to many people in the gospels. In fact, he asks the disciples at one occasion to keep this truth between them. He does reveal himself to the woman here. When does he do it? Can we learn anything from this?**
- 3. When the woman shared with the other Samaritans about Jesus, what did she focus on? Can we learn something about the way we are to share our faith?**
- 4. The Samaritans followed the woman to meet Jesus, but later they said: “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves.” What does that teach us about our role in bringing others to faith in Jesus?**

'Human nature is the same the world over, and when the gospel of Christ is preached in simplicity and power, there is a response in the human soul.'

Billy Graham

'Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier.'

Mother Teresa

'The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself.'

Charles Spurgeon