

## Barrier Breaker

<b>Scripture:</b>	
<b>Announcements:</b>	
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	
<b>RECAP:</b>	<p>Okay, so last week we focused on moving from a duplicitous, compartmentalized Christian life to living singularly for God's glory. Well, how did it go last week? Were you able to do all for the glory of God?</p> <p>— Did true worship flow from every aspect of your daily life?</p> <p>— — How did your 15-20 seconds window go?</p> <p>— — — If you subtract sleep (8 hrs/night), in one week there are 20,160–26,880 opportunities (every 15–20 sec) where a semi-conscious decision could be made. Each day (while awake), there are about 2,880–3,840 opportunities (every 15–20 seconds) for semi-conscious decisions. How many did you give to God this last week?</p>
<b>INTRODUCTION:</b>	<p>Today we will be looking at how Jesus breaks barriers.</p> <p>— We will see how Jesus is God and we see that come to life here.</p> <p>— We will also see how this Samaritan woman shared her faith as soon as she had it.</p>
<b>Passage Begins</b>	

Scripture:	
<p><b>John 4: 21 Jesus *said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman *said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” 26 Jesus *said to her, “I who speak to you am <i>He</i>.” 27 <u>At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why do You speak with her?” 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and *said to the men, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I <i>have</i> done; this is not the Christ, is it?” 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.</u> (John 4:21-30, NASB95)</b></p>	<p>After this, a truly amazing thing happens; Jesus had just told this Samaritan woman; who had 5 husbands and the man she was living with now is not her husband; that He is the Christ, the Messiah.</p> <p>— Then the disciples come back and were amazed that He was talking with this woman.</p> <p>— — D. A. Carson wrote this about their surprise, “Their voiced surprise that He was talking with a Samaritan woman reflects the prejudices of the day.”</p> <p>— — We have to see the divine plan in the timing of the disciples coming back with food for Jesus.</p> <p>— — — It did not happen in the middle of the conversation with this woman but at the end so that they were not interrupted.</p> <p>— — — — It was also to educate the disciples in the new way that Jesus was ushering in, God had these men show up just as Jesus was finishing this conversation.</p>
	<p>The disciples were questioning Jesus in their hearts about what He was doing.</p> <p>— Remember back when Jesus first started this conversation with her; we looked at three reasons why it was surprising that Jesus would talk to this Samaritan woman:</p> <p>— — First, in their culture men did not talk to women in public very often if at all; even if they were married.</p> <p>— — Second, she was a Samaritan and the Jews and Samaritans did not get along well.</p> <p>— — Third, Jesus was a Rabbi and a Rabbi would have followed these traditions much more closely than just a normal person.</p> <p>— — — So, not only was it surprising for this woman:</p> <p><b><u>READ: John 4:9: Therefore the Samaritan woman</u></b> <b>*said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) (NASB95).</b> But it was also surprising for the disciples.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Jesus was breaking down the bias of the day and He was starting with His disciples.</p> <p>— Some would have thought in that time period that it was useless for a Rabbi to talk with a woman; others would have taken it even further to say that providing women with knowledge of the Torah was on the level of selling them into prostitution.</p> <p>— — Jesus was not going to let sin and oppression of a gender, an ethnicity, or of an age continue.</p> <p>— — — Just like this woman who Jesus had just shared the gospel with, He will do for many others.</p>
	<p>Let's look at the barriers that Jesus broke for the sake of of the gospel; and while we are looking at them, we ourselves should be looking to break through these barriers as well.</p> <p>— Jesus welcomed the children: <b>READ: Mark 10:14:</b> <b>But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (NASB95).</b> This broke the social norms because children were considered insignificant.</p> <p>— — Jesus healed a Roman Centurion's servant: <b>READ: Matthew 8:5-7: And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." Jesus *said to him, "I will come and heal him." (NASB95).</b> Rome had taken over Israel and was ruling over them; so to do anything for them would be politically and ethnically wrong.</p> <p>— — — Jesus cast out demons; which broke ethnic and religious purity rules. Talking with a Gentile was rarely accepted, being in a grave yard and being with a demon possessed person could cause someone to be unclean.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>— — — — Jesus ministered to a Samaritan woman here in our passage and a Canaanite woman by healing her daughter: <b>READ: Matthew 15:28: Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once. (NASB95).</b> Once again Jesus is ministering to a woman from a foreign land.</p> <p>— — — — — He ate with tax collectors and sinners: <b>READ: Luke 5:29-30: And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other <i>people</i> who were reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes <i>began</i> grumbling at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” (NASB95).</b> Tax collectors were considered to be traitors and sinners were to be avoided.</p> <p>— — — — — Jesus did not break barriers to be rebellious or to shock people; He broke barriers so that He could bring the truth, the good news to humanity.</p> <p>— — — — — He went where others would not go ... to reach those that others would not reach; showing that God’s grace extends past barriers so that God would be glorified.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>But ultimately, Jesus broke barriers because He is God.</p> <p>— This is what we see when He told the woman all that she had done as she declares in verse 29; this is not Him guessing ... it is the divine omniscience (knowing everything) of Jesus ... the One who knows the secrets of the heart.</p> <p>— — <b>READ: Psalms 139:1-4: O Lord, You have searched me and known <i>me</i>. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. (NASB95).</b></p> <p>— — — Jesus changed this woman's life because He is God.</p> <p>— — — — The woman that avoided the people from the town, now runs to them to bring them back so that their lives could be changed too.</p> <p>— — — — — Her shame turned into testimony and her secrecy into proclamation. Only God can change a heart. <b>READ: Titus 3:5: He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (NASB95).</b></p> <p>— — — — — <b>READ: Philippians 2:13: for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for <i>His</i> good pleasure. (NASB95).</b></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Okay so let's look at what this woman did.</p> <p>— She left her water pot. Now some people will try to say that she forgot it but I believe that she left it because the same word used for “left” in this verse is the same word used for when Jesus “left” Judea.</p> <p>— — Jesus did not forget and leave Judea but left on purpose. So too did this woman leave her water pot.</p> <p>— — — But why? Well, I have 3 reasons that I think are why she left it.</p> <p>— — — — 1. She was overwhelmed by her encounter with Jesus. In this moment, Jesus overshadowed the water and the water pot. He became the focus of this woman.</p> <p>— — — — — She was finally focused on the spiritual and not the physical.</p> <p>— — — — — <b>— READ: <u>Philippians 3:7-8</u>: 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, (NASB95).</b></p> <p>— — — — — <b>— READ: <u>Hebrews 12:2</u>: fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NASB95).</b></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>2. She found something better than water.</p> <p>— The water pot was a symbol of: -</p> <p>-her old daily routine. She had to go get the water in the middle of the day ....</p> <p>-The physical thirst and need that she had and her leaving that physical thirst behind because she found the greater living water.</p> <p>— — This really shows us her turning from earthly things, and turning to Christ.</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: John 7:37-38: 37 Now on the last day, the great <i>day</i> of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” (NASB95).</u></b></p> <p>3. She needed to go quickly. She could not wait to tell other sinners to come to Jesus.</p> <p>— Notice that she did not wait until she was properly trained, or she had the best method for sharing the good news, or she was more mature in her faith.</p> <p>— — No, she went right away to share who Christ is with everyone.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>— — — Arthur W. Pink wrote, “Let us go and do likewise. Let us by word and deed—‘by all means,’ as the apostle says—seek to gather as many as possible around the Person of the Son of God....May the Lord grant us a deep sense of the value of immortal souls, the preciousness of Christ, and the awful solemnity of eternity, as shall constrain us to more urgent and faithful dealing with the soul of men.”</p> <p>— — — — We need to have urgency in witnessing:</p> <p><b><u>READ: Matthew 9:37-38:</u> 37 Then He <i>*said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (NASB95).</i></b></p> <p>— — — — — We need to understand that our testimony is powerful ... just as this woman’s testimony is powerful in Acts 4:13:</p> <p>— — — — — <b><u>READ: John 4:39:</u> From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I <i>have</i> done.” (NASB95).</b></p> <p>— — — — — We also need to have urgency in evangelism.</p> <p>— — — — — <b><u>READ: 2 Timothy 4:2:</u> I solemnly charge <i>you</i> in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season <i>and</i> out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (NASB95).</b></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply these things to our lives?</p> <p>— Well, we have to know that Jesus breaks down barriers.</p> <p>— — Ask yourself, who in your life have you labeled too difficult or too far, or too different for the gospel. How do you work intentionally toward them with the gospel?</p> <p>— — — The Samaritan woman left her water pot behind because she had found something greater. What “water pots” do you need to leave behind?</p> <p>— — — — The woman didn’t wait until the moment was perfect or she was perfectly trained to share the gospel; she just went and shared. How are you going to share the gospel this week?</p> <p>— — — — — Let there be an urgency in sharing the gospel with those around you.</p>
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