

Conversations, Invitations, and Radical Transformations

John 4:1-42

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Aug. 21, 2022

I. You need to know sometimes God's works are flashy, most times they're not...but He's working nonetheless in your everyday life!

- A. Jesus wanted to flee the Pharisees and headed for Galilee (John 4:1-3).
- B. To do that, He had to pass through Samaria (John 4:6).
- C. He reached Samaria at the sixth hour and needed a drink, so he stopped by the nearest well (John 4:6).
- D. Jesus has nothing to draw water with (John 4:11). His disciples might have, but they went into town to buy food (John 4:8) so he has to ask the woman for a drink (John 4:7).
- E. The woman at the well is thinking & speaking along earthly lines ("horizontally" - John 4:9,11,12,15,17,19,25), but Jesus is using these circumstances to pivot the conversation towards spiritual things (vertically - John 4:7,10,13,16-18,21-24,26).
- F. His disciples come back just as Jesus tells the woman He is the Messiah (John 4:26-27). If they came back sooner or later than that moment, things would've played out significantly differently.

Every single one of these interactions is **God-ordained**...and you have an opportunity to redeem the time God has given you.

II. You need to be like Jesus by being gentle, kind, compassionate, patient, and conversational with sinners.

- A. Jesus is always strongest and boldest about religious things to religious people (especially religious leaders).

John 3:3 "Jesus answered [Nicodemus], 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

John 3:7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

John 3:10 "Jesus answered him, 'Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?'"

- B. Jesus is always kinder, gentler, and more patient with sinners.

John 4:7 "Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'"

John 4:10 "Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'"

John 4:14 "But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again."

John 4:26 "Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'"

III. You need to see how God uses simple conversation and invitation to bring about radical transformation!

- A. Jesus engages her in **simple conversation** about an everyday, ordinary, run of the mill thing - thirst...

John 4:7 “A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’”

...which ultimately results in **radical transformation** in the woman’s life!

John 4:26, 28 “Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am He’...²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town...”

- B. The Samaritan woman gives a **simple invitation** to the townspeople based on her one encounter with Jesus...

John 4:28-30 “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.”

...which ultimately results in **radical transformation** in the lives of many people!

John 4:39, 41-42 “Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me all that I ever did’...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.’”

IV. You need to make these conversations and invitations a top priority or you’ll never do it.

John 4:31-38 “Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’ ³² But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ ³³ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Has anyone brought Him something to eat?’ ³⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, “There are yet four months, then comes the harvest”? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.’”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

- 1) Think about where you live and who you live near. Think about where you go to school, and who you sit near. Think about the people you interact with at your workplace. Think about cashiers, airline passengers, the person opposite of you at the gas pump. Think about front-line workers who are depleted now more than ever. Pastor Peter said “*Every single one of these interactions is **God-ordained***...and you have an opportunity to redeem the time God has given you.” Have you ever considered your ordinary, everyday life as “God-ordained”? How should that change your perspective on today and tomorrow?
- 2) Recall a time in your life God used an ordinary circumstance, immediately or eventually, to bring about significant change in your life.
- 3) When you speak to unbelievers and/or about unbelievers, how would you describe your tone and disposition? More times than not, are you compassionately concerned or frustrated and angry?
- 4) Are you good at starting simple conversations with people? If you’re not, who do you know that can give you a few pointers? If you are, who can you give a few pointers to?
- 5) How many opportunities will you pray God makes you aware of each day - each week - each month?