

Presbytery Day 2018 - Bible Study

Open with Prayer

Woman at the well - John 4:1-19, 27-30, 39-41

Jesus starts the conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. Let us explore the qualities of the Samaritan woman.

- She was a woman - Jewish men did not speak to women in public. Also, woman did not have good social status in those days.
- She was a Samaritan woman - Jews did not associate with Samaritans due to the historical disagreement between the two groups.
- She came to the well at noon and this means she was an outcast because of her sinful life.

When the disciples saw Jesus talking to the woman, they were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" In Jesus' time, the disciples struggled whether to reach people who are different than they are. Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman and as a result many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony and became believers.

Jesus brings deliverance to humankind, but Jesus carries the deliverance through a woman who was rejected by the society.

The Council at Jerusalem - Acts 15:1-19

After Jesus' death and resurrection, the early church struggled with the challenge of reaching out to non-Jewish people. Shall we do ministry to one group (Jews) or ministry to a group that is different (Gentiles)?

The disciples remembered the God's promise from the Book of Amos in Old Testament as it says,

Amos 9:11 "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord - even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called".

They also heard the witnesses from other ministers and they understood that the church is called to reach out to everyone.

Conclusion

Today the modern church goes through the same problem. Shall we do Ministry to one group or Ministry to a group that is different? Jesus had the same problem with His disciples. The early church struggled with the same problem. But they came together and sought the Holy Spirit for wisdom. They heard the message in a different way to accept everyone as God has accepted us.

As Paul says in Galatian 3:28, There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. So, let us remember God's love and extend that love and care to others and make this world a better place to live for us and for the future generations to come. Amen.

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