

Bridges Not Barriers part 1

John 4:1-26

I. Boldly going beyond our comfort zone John 4:1-5

A. Jesus' mission to make disciples (1,2)

1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

B. Jesus must make a way for all to believe (3,4)

3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria.

II. Breaking down barriers John 4:5-19

A. Breaking the barrier of defense (5-15)

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

1. Breaking barriers start with finding common ground (5,6)

2. The wall of the woman (7-9)

B. Breaking the barrier of spiritual blindness (10-15)

1. The samaritan woman was blind to the gift (10)

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

2. The samaritan woman misunderstood Jesus' words (11,12)

11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

3. The samaritan woman was offered living water (13-15)

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

C. Breaking the barrier of compromise (16-19)

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” **17** The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” **19** The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

III. Building bridges brings clarity of the truth John 4:20-26

A. Building bridges starts by refocusing on true worship (21-24)

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” **21** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

B. Building bridges starts with knowing Christ (25,26)

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (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*.”

Conclusion

1. Who is it this week that you must go to share your faith? Pray and share
2. What barriers are keeping you from coming to Christ?
3. What bridges do you need to build to share the truth?