

## CCC JESUS CAME TO TELL US THE TRUTH 3

### What Jesus Came to Do

We are in a series I have called “What Jesus Came to Do.”

And let me ask you a question. Who is in a better position

to tell us what Jesus came to do than Jesus Himself?

Several times in scripture very clearly we’re told Jesus came to do *this*, Jesus came to do *that*. What we have been doing the last few weeks is looking at God’s love letter to us, the Bible like you would look at a photo album and each story about Jesus is a snap shot.

There’s a classic example, a confrontation between Jesus and a woman in scripture. She’s typically called “the woman at the well.” That’s where He meets this person.

We don’t know her name so we just call her The Woman at the Well. The conversation that Jesus has with this women,

Jesus tells her the truth about herself, about her life, and more importantly, He tells her the truth about what He can offer to her. He knows she needs eternal life. It’s a wonderful account about this truth telling aspect to Jesus’ ministry.

John 4: 4-42... It’s a very long story and I am not going to be able to go verse by verse but we will get the snap shot here. We don’t have to read all the verses. What I’d like to do is just tell you the story and I’m going to draw a few illustrations out of it and then we’ll be done.

So the Bible tells us that Jesus had been ministering in one area of the world and He was getting ready to go to another city and the Bible says a very interesting thing, “*He had to go through Samaria.*” That’s what the Scripture says. He had to go through Samaria. Let me tell you why that’s interesting. Back in Jesus’ days the Jewish people did

everything possible to avoid Samaritans. They just didn't like them. Religiously there was a lot of prejudice, racially there was a lot of prejudice so Jewish people would travel sometimes three days out of the way to avoid Samaria. But this passage of scripture says, "*Jesus had to go through Samaria.*" He goes through Samaria and He comes to this well. The Bible says that it's noon. It's the heat of the day. Jesus is described as being tired. He sits down at the well and He's resting. His disciples go off to a nearby village to get lunch. Jesus is left alone. Then the Bible says the Samaritan woman comes out to the well. And Jesus says to her, "Would you give Me a drink?" She's shocked by His asking her. She says, "Why is it that You, being a Jewish person, would even speak to me?" Jesus said, "If you knew who I was you would ask Me for water and I would give you living water."

I want you to understand a couple of things. First, I want you to understand the situation of this woman. She's coming out to draw water at noon by herself. Here's why that's a problem. In that culture, women would go out to the well outside their village in the cool of the morning or the cool of the evening. They would never go in the middle of the day. They would never go in the hottest part of the day. And they would never go alone for security reasons. So why did this woman go by herself and in the middle of the day because she was a social outcast. She could only go when others weren't going...

In this conversation she is having with Jesus she thinks they're just talking about physical water and her physical thirst. But Jesus is starting to engage her at a deeper spiritual level. He says I could give you water that would meet your deepest needs. She still thinks He's talking just

water. So she looks around and says, “You don’t even have a bucket with which to draw water. Who do You think you are?” Jesus says, “Listen! If you drink this water from the well you’ll just get thirsty again. If you drink the water that I’m offering, you’ll never thirst again. I have something that will satisfy you internally and eternally. You’ll never thirst again.”

They talk about all kinds of things but then they finally get down to the crux of her life. Jesus says, “Why don’t you go get your husband? Come back and we’ll talk some more?” The woman has a real dilemma. She has a pretty checkered past. She says, “I don’t have a husband.” Jesus says, “You’ve spoken the truth. You’ve had five husbands and the man you’re living with now is not your husband.”

She immediately changes the subject. She says, “Let’s talk about worship. Do you think we ought to worship God on this mountain?” This is exactly what she does. Jesus says, “Let’s not talk about religion. Let’s talk about reality.” Near the end of the story she comes to believe that this person is in fact Jesus the Christ, the promised Messiah, God's Savior for the world. She goes back to her village and she tells all the people that she knows about this experience. And the Bible says the village comes out to this well and they believe that Jesus is the Christ because of the testimony of this woman. She had no idea that afternoon when she went to the well that new meaning and new direction and new purpose would be given to her life. She had no idea how everything would turn around because she’d had a conversation with the Son of God.

As I was studying this passage of scripture, I thought what would it have been like to be a Samaritan woman in that culture from her perspective what would this event have felt like. I was trying to get inside her mind for just a minute and see it from her point of view.

I think she was thinking on her way to the well, “How many more times do I have to come to this dumb well in the hot sun and sand? Oh, look! There’s a man resting against the well. He looks like one of those northern Jews. Oh, great. That means when I get there He won’t even speak to me. Nobody respectable speaks to me. He’ll ignore me first because I’m a woman. Jewish men, they don’t believe they should speak to women in public. If he doesn’t ignore me because I’m a woman he will ignore me because I’m a Samaritan. The Jews think we’re a bunch of half-breeds who are racially polluted. I might as well get

over it. I need the water. Here’s the well. I can’t believe it. He’s actually looking at me. It looks like He’s getting ready to speak to me. Oh my God -.” And in fact the person she was meeting was God in the flesh. And in that encounter between her and Jesus there’s some truths that just jump from the pages of scripture and I want to share them with you. Then we’ll be done.

**Truth #1: The truth of it is I cannot hide my past from God.** Have you ever tried to hide something from God? Why is it that we believe we can smuggle our sins past God? What makes us think that we can sneak something past the all-seeing eyes of God? Past the all-hearing ears of God? Past the all-knowing mind of God? Why do we think that? We do all kinds of things to try to deal with the sin problem in your life and my life.

**First we try to ignore our sin.** This is that place we call denial. The Bible tells us we have all sinned. None of us have lived our lives perfectly. All of us have decided to do things our way instead of God's way. Everybody in this room! And for you and I to try to ignore our sin is very ineffective if we ever hope to take care of the sin issue in our life.

**The second ineffective way we try to deal with sin is through sheer determination to do good.** Like a New Year's resolution. Every time you make the declaration, "I will never do that again," you're thinking by your own willpower you could do good from that point forward never falling into that temptation. My question to you is, "Can you?" Can you, just by sheer determination solve all the problems in your life?

**The third ineffective way we try to deal with the sin and the problems in our life is we have decided there is no hope.** We have decided there is no hope and we repeat the process over and over again and all that does is it leaves us empty and guilt-ridden and shamed and lonely. And that's what the woman at the well did. She just kept repeating the same process. It was like, "I can't live perfectly so I might as well do everything wrong!" Over and over and over again. When Jesus asked her about it, she had a decision to make. And she decided that she was just going to keep everything a secret from Jesus.

If this Bible story teaches us anything it teaches that God knows all about your past, He also knows what's going on in your life today. That's why we say in our recovery groups around here all the time, you're only as sick as your secrets. You can't get well. You cannot have

your spiritual thirst quenched until you're ready to say,  
"God, I'll just admit it. I know I can't hide anything from  
You so I'm going to be truthful about it."

That's why I've given you a first step you can take toward  
the truth. **Be honest with yourself and be honest with  
God.**

Stopped here

**Truth #2: Jesus knows all about me and He still loves  
me.**

The very reason we try to hide our sins from God is  
because we believe that God won't like us if He discovers  
everything about us. So we think if I could just hide parts  
of my life then God will still like me. Let me ask you a  
question is that what the Bible teaches us that the moment  
God discovers things about us He stops loving us or caring  
about us? No, last week we saw the women caught in

adultery Jesus loved her just as she was... The second step  
here is **Believe that the one who knows you best, loved  
you most!**

**Truth #3: The truth of it is, My sin has its  
consequences.**

Someone once said sin is fun on credit. You have fun now  
you pay later. I found that to be true. Here's what I also  
discovered. When we sin we don't get to choose how  
much we pay. When we sin we don't get to pick the  
consequences and we don't know what the consequences  
will be until after we've sinned.

It's kind of like this. Suppose you go into a store.  
The rule in the store is if you touch anything you have to  
buy it and there are no price tags and you won't be told  
how much it cost until you have to buy it. So you go in

and you're very timid. You tell your children, "Don't touch anything." But then you see something that you want. You'd like to have that... You'd like to do that... You'd like to experience that. Then the thought runs through your mind, "But then I'll have to pay and I don't know how much it costs." And you have this momentary moral dilemma, "I think it will be worth it. I don't care what it costs. I'm going to go my way." And then we carry that item to the cash register and we ask with a bit of fear, "How much is this going to cost me?" Then our knees almost buckle when we hear someone say, "That? That costs your reputation. That one? That will cost your marriage. If that's what you want to do that will cost your kids. That one is going to cost your peace of mind." See what happens?

That's why I want to tell you today, sin has a consequence. You and I will pay a price. We don't get to choose what it is. When we sin we pay.

Sin has its consequences but we don't get to pick what they are. This is exactly what the Bible says.

Galatians 6:7 *"What a person plants he will harvest."*

How many of you have heard the slogan, *"You'll reap what you sow."* That comes right from the Bible.

Would you agree with me that this woman was living the consequences of her sin? All the bad decisions she'd ever made, all the good decisions that she had failed to make. Think about the high price she was paying. She's alone at the well. She's a social outcast. That's a high price. She had broken heart after broken heart after broken heart. Relational disappointments. That's a high price. She's far from God. That's called spiritual death. That's a high

price. And at the soul level she is thirsty and parched and empty.

That's a high price. That's why I would challenge you the third step towards truth, **understand that God loves us just the way we are but He loves us enough not to leave us that way.** Would it have been loving for Jesus to know all about this woman, to say, "I love you," today but then leave her in that condition? Spiritually dead and thirsty. No, He said, I love you so much. I love you right now but I love you so much I don't want you to stay this way. That's why He offered her a new life, eternal life that welled up from within like a fresh fountain of clean and pure water. That leads us to truth number four. Our fourth and final truth.

**Truth #4: The truth of it is, Jesus is the only one who can satisfy my deepest need.**

There are so many great things here. Just a couple of verses so you can see some of the great things Jesus said to this woman. Verse John 4:10 *"If you knew who I was you would have asked Me and I would have given you living water.* Verse John 4:14 *"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst again. But the water I give shall become inside a well of water springing up to eternal life."* All through the Bible is the picture of people like you and people like me. We're described as being spiritually thirsty. All through the Bible we're told that God is the only one who can quench our soul thirst. Psalm 42:1-2 *"As a deer pants for streams of water, so I long for You O God. I thirst for God, the living God."* Isaiah 12:2,3 *"See? God has come to save me. I will trust*

*in Him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation. With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation.”* Jesus said in Revelation 21:6 *“I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.”*

You say, “I would love to have this thirst in my soul satisfied. How does that happen?” You have to take the final step towards truth. You must admit your emptiness. You have to say, “Jesus, I’ve tried to fill my life every other way and I’m still thirsty.” Can you be honest with yourself and can you be honest with God? Charlie Brown once said, “Sometimes I lie awake at night and I ask, ‘Where have I gone wrong?’ then a voice says to me, ‘This is going to take more than one night.’” That might be the truth. It might take you a while to admit the futility of your

life. The emptiness of your life. It is required that you say, Jesus, I thirst. Jesus I need what only You can give.

Then you accept Jesus’ offer of satisfaction. You admit your thirst and then you accept Jesus’ offer of satisfaction. “Lord, give me the eternally satisfying life that you promised.” It’s like this woman came to Jesus and she says, “I can’t get no satisfaction. Oh, I’ve tried and I’ve tried and I’ve tried and I’ve tried. And I can’t get no satisfaction!”

The woman’s life has a big gaping puzzle piece that’s missing. She tries everything to find a fit. Something that would completely fill that place in her life. She had tried pleasure, the temporary fix – if I could just get a little something today that will carry me to tomorrow. She lived her life sort of going from fix to fix, one pleasure pursuit to another. But that didn’t fit. She tried work. We

know she tried work because going out to a well wasn't just something you did to bide your time. People would go outside their village to draw water from a well so they could wash their clothes, bathe, cook. This was a part of her normal work routine. Sadly, one-day looks just like the next. It was so unsatisfying. Work didn't do it in her life.

And of course we know that she tried people, a whole string of them. That didn't satisfy. One loser right after another.

Then on this particular day she comes out and she found the piece that fit. "Only Jesus can satisfy your soul. Only He can change your heart and make you whole." That's what she needed. He was the piece that was missing. In your life there is a God shaped void that only He can fill. He's the only one that can bring completeness and wholeness to your life. He's the only one that can

quench the soul thirst that you have, the deepest needs you have, the greatest soul thirst you experience is the thirst for forgiveness, the thirst to be right with God, the thirst for eternal life. We crave that. We need that. And Jesus is the only one who can provide that.

Jesus said in John 7:37, "*If you are thirsty come to Me. If you believe in Me, come and drink.*" We're so thirsty!

We're thirsty for a clean conscience. When was the last time you were able to peacefully put your head on your pillow at night, guilt free, no more shame. All your secrets exposed to heaven and you discover God loves you still. When's the last time you felt like your slate was wiped clean? When's the last time you felt like you had a fresh start with God? We do like the woman at the well. We say relationships will do that for me. How many of you have

ever been disappointed by a spouse, a child, a parent, a friend? That just doesn't get the job done. How many of you thought, "I'll just accomplish more. I'll earn enough money and I'll be financially secure. "I live for the weekends. Recreational pursuits. Good times!" And Monday morning I'm still thirsty.

And Jesus just sits next to you and says, "I'm the only one who can quench your soul thirst, the only one who can make you right with God." That's exactly what He's offering you this morning.

**Prayer:**

If you're thirsty, I mean deeply, internally, spiritually thirsty – I wonder if you can hear the gentle voice of God's Spirit saying, "Come. Come just as you are. Taste, just taste this living water. And you will never, never thirst again." Here's how that can happen in your life. Right

now, very quietly, just between you and God, you can say, "Dear Lord, I admit my emptiness. Forgive me for trying every other way. I accept Your free offer of eternal life. And with Your help, Lord, I'll follow You. With Your help, I'll commit my life to You. Amen.