

“How to Get Unstuck and Move Forward”

John 4:10

January 29, 2017

Are you stuck? Let's work on that today ...

A. Let Jesus bridge our differences.

Sometimes we trip over one another and let our differences hold us back. Can we move past our differences?

John 4:7,9, Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” ... ⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

Their differences:

- Male and female. This made all the difference in that day.
- Jew and Gentile. Religious "have" and "have not."
- Galilean and Samaritan. Political and cultural distaste.

In spite of their differences, here they were, at a "divine appointment." Jesus engaged the woman in conversation by asking for a drink of water.

TAKE HOME: Learning how to engage people in conversation is important:

- Smile.
- Do you see anything this person likes that you also like? [Are they wearing a "Gators" t-shirt?]
- Say something related to being together, preferably a question. [At the gas pump, "Did prices jump 3 cents from yesterday?"]
- If the person looks upset ask, "Is there anything I can pray about for you?"
- Always compliment their kids, dog, car, or anything that's important to them.
- Ask them for help, that's what Jesus did here. [Would you mind helping me decide which cake mix is best? I'm not sure which to use.]

When you talk to people, the differences between you can melt away!

B. Hear Jesus invite you to experience “more.”

John 4:10, Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

If you only knew ... 2 Corinthians 2:9, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has imagined — the things God has prepared for those who love him.”

ILLY: When you love someone you super-enjoy doing for them and surprising them with outbursts of affection ... that’s the way it is with God toward us ... “if you only knew.”

C. Investigate what “more” might mean for you.

Question: What could Jesus do for you that would make your life SO MUCH BETTER?

John 4:11-15, “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” ¹³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” ¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

For this woman the daily trek to Jacob’s well was a burden. What burden might Jesus lift from you?

Matthew 11:28-30, Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

C. Submit your secrets to Jesus.

John 4:16-17, “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. ¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with

now. You certainly spoke the truth!" ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet.

- Faith in Jesus fills our deepest thirst ... "priming" us for meaningful relationships.
- ILLY: Soil can get so parched it resists water, even pushes water away. Jesus "pre-soaks" us so we can enjoy human relationships.
- What is it about Jesus that penetrates us so? "You certainly spoke the truth!" Jesus speaks truth because He IS truth.

D. The Messiah is your hope for moving forward.

John 4:25-26, The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Jesus said it plainly, "I AM the Messiah!" Literally, "The I AM is speaking to you."

Hope had asked her for a drink of water.

Hope had taken the time to sit and chat with her.

Hope was being honest with her.

Hope said, "right now, it's up to you." I am the Messiah, what are you going to do about it?

What if you took the claim of Jesus here, "I am the Messiah" and believed it? How would that add traction to your life, get you unstuck, and move forward?

-- More truth in your life?

-- More relational satisfaction?

-- More "now" and less "later" for what really matters in life?

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, some of us are stuck and have been for a long time. We've focused on the differences in our relationships instead of bridge-building. Our ears have grown deaf to Your whispers of hope. The shame of our secrets have been disabling. Lord, we invite you to be our hope. Today, nudge us out of our self-made ruts. In Jesus' name, amen."