

# THE BELIEF THAT SAVES

John 4:39-42

Introduction:

## 1. The Significance of the Woman's Testimony

A) We know that her testimony is significant because John mentions it three times

- > Her testimony made people aware of Jesus Christ (John 4:29)
- > Her testimony was convincing enough that the people of her village wanted to meet Jesus Christ (John 4:39)
- > Her testimony led to the people to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 4:42)

B) We also know that although her testimony was significant it wasn't enough

- > Notice that the people of the village came to the well to hear Jesus speak, not the woman (John 4:40)

Their belief would need to be grounded in the teaching of Jesus Christ (John 4:41)

Remember John the Baptist's testimony (John 3:30-36)

**IMPORTANT LESSON** – When we share our story with unbelievers we must remember that it is only an introduction to the real story they need to hear – God's story of redemption as recorded in His Word.

## 2. The Significance of the Samaritan's Hearts

A) These Samaritans "urged Jesus to stay with them" (John 4:40)

- > They weren't content with the woman's testimony or even with meeting Jesus
- > Jesus, embracing His Father's will and work, stayed for 2 days

B) There were other times when Jesus didn't adjust His plans for the whims of the people

- > Jesus left an anxious crowd who wanted to anoint Him as their King (John 6:14-15)
- > Jesus chose to speak in parables to those who were not intent on learning (Matthew 13:10-15)
- > Jesus would not answer the questions of those who had no intention of believing on Him (Matthew 21:23-27)

### 3. The Centrality of Jesus Christ for Salvation

#### A) The woman's testimony was not sufficient for salvation

- > She had piqued their interest in the potential that Jesus was the Christ (John 4:28)
- > Notice the change in these Samaritans after spending time with Jesus (John 4:42)

#### B) The Word of God was necessary for salvation

- > What did Jesus teach these Samaritans for two days?

We don't know, but we have clues in our text

Drinking water that will well up to eternal life (John 4:13-14)

Sin is a problem (John 4:15-16)

Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)

Jesus is the Christ (John 4:25-26)

The "Taheb" or prophet that Moses spoke of (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)

- \* All of these truths are found in the Scriptures – God's *authoritative testimony*.

#### C) Jesus is the Savior of the world

- > As important as it is to know that Jesus is the Christ – and that is a central truth in the gospels and Acts.

This Christ came to bring salvation to a world under the curse of sin  
(Isaiah 53:6; John 20:31)

- > Jesus is the Savior of WORLD

Substituting the word world with elect here is dishonest (John 17:6-9)

- > The delightful truth for the Samaritans

Salvation is of the Jews but Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world (John 4:22c)

**NOTE:** There is no other Savior in the world

Any and every religion that does not point to Jesus alone is a false religion and will damn its adherents to hell.

That is why it is so important for us, like the Samaritan woman, to point people to Jesus Christ

The conversion of a Samaritan woman, her testimony, and the resultant revival that took place in a small Samaritan town are important – that is why John includes them in his gospel

But all of these truths lead to one concluding statement that reveals John's purpose for telling the story

“We have heard Jesus ourselves and know that this is indeed the Christ the Savior of the world.”