



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 9, 2023

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Talk to Someone Today

In **John 4**, Jesus makes the decision to go from Judea to Galilee (v.3). Samaria lay between the two. John 4:4 states, “*But He needed to go through Samaria*” (v.4). Most of us well know that the Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies. In fact, many Jews making the same trek Jesus was about to make would take a longer circuitous route just to avoid Samaritan soil. But Jesus needed to go through Samaria. Maybe He needed to go through there, not to save time, but for who He would encounter there.

While in Samaria, He found Himself at Jacob’s well near the city of Sychar. There He met a Samaritan woman of likely ill repute and struck up a conversation with her about water, her life, and spiritual matters (**v.5-26**). When Jesus’ disciples came back (they had gone into town to get food), they marveled that Jesus was speaking with a woman (**v.27**)!

Think about it: Jesus, a Jew, a man, in broad daylight, at a public place, talked to a woman, a Samaritan, with a bad reputation. This just did not happen in first-century Palestine. But Jesus did it. Maybe this is why Jesus “*needed*” to go through Samaria – to serve as an example of who we should be willing to approach in His name. We should be willing to talk to anybody and everybody.

Is there someplace you need to be today? Wherever it is, know that you can and should be able to talk to someone about water (i.e. small talk), their life, and spiritual matters.

The woman was quite surprised that Jesus talked to her (**v.9**). I’m confident it made her feel really good knowing He was willing to do so.

Talk to someone today. Let them know you are interested in them. Show them they are important. Help them to realize that they are valuable to God.

The result of Jesus talking to this woman is that she went and told others and many heard His teachings (**v.28-30**). As a result of this, many Samaritans believed in Jesus (**v.39-42**) – all because Jesus talked to one person. Talk to someone today.

Edd Sterchi
Broadway church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY

Lord, Send Someone Else

In the book of Judges, we read about a time when the nation of Israel was overrun with Midianites. They would rob God's people of their harvest and do even more evil things to God's people. Israel prayed and begged God to send a leader who would run the enemies out of their land and peace would come.

In **Judges 6:12**, the Angel of the Lord addressed a coward by the name of Gideon. The Angel said: "*The Lord is with you mighty warrior.*" The Lord didn't see Gideon in his present situation. But, Gideon's lack of faith or courage is seen in a question. Gideon dared ask the Angel of the Lord, that if the Lord is with him why didn't he do something about these evil Midianites overrunning his land?

And there was an answer to that question. It was not what Gideon wanted to hear. God's answer was: "I am doing something about it. It's you. You are the answer. You, Gideon, go and deliver your people."

Often times, there are folks who say: "*Why don't they do something*". But the question should be, what can I do about that situation? Here is a good example. There is always an element that always says, "*Why don't the churches do something about the poor?*" What those folks fail to realize is, they are the church. And if they see a need, then maybe that's the Lord calling them to do something about that need.

Gideon was surprised by this answer. I don't know what he thought the Lord should do. He probably wanted God to simply wipe out the enemies of Israel with a wave of his hand. And God could have done that. But the Lord doesn't think like we think (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). God sees things we don't see. He knows things we don't know. God's plans are perfect. Ours are flawed.

Apparently, Gideon wanted deliverance, but he wanted someone else to do the delivering. So, Gideon came up with an excuse. He said, "But Lord, I am from the weakest clan and I am its weakest member." Basically, his response was: "*Lord someone else.*"

Often, we think we are not smart enough, talented enough, rich enough, to complete a work. But God sees what you can become if you will put yourself in His hands. The Lord looks at you and sees great potential. I truly believe that the Apostle Paul understood this when he wrote: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (**Philippians 4:13**).

Larry Fitzgerald
Woodlawn church of Christ
Abilene, TX