

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 13

Title: The Waiting Game

Hello world, this is Expose 247 and is good to be back again. It's been a while we took a French leave and we were out of your face, but today we are reporting for duty and it will be good if you will spread the word around and join us as we go and follow this story of this woman in John Chapter 4. This is going to be the 13th episode if I'm right?

Yes, 13th episode of the Bucket Ministry Series.

We've had twelve, you know where to find us. The last one was on Instructions for life, and that was the 12th episode.

Would you like to do a quick recap of all the previous 12th episode and for people to know where we are in this crash course on.....

Well, what I will simply say is instead of talking about the crash course, we can just talk about what the focus had been for the past 12th episode.

Based on our last title, Instructions for life, we began to look at the application of the gospel using the life of this woman. I know you might be thinking that at the time this woman met Jesus, Jesus never said is the gospel. Even though this woman never had that much knowledge of what the gospel is all about, but she encountered the gospel in the person of Jesus.

The scriptures says the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came though Jesus. (John 1: 17) Jesus is the gospel personify. So this woman came in contact with the good news about Jesus, not just from a messenger of Christ but from Christ himself.

So we used her life and her encounter and what she experienced to look at the implication of the gospel for us now in this age and in this time. So all the topics we've gone through have been reflecting not just that we hear the gospel but how do we apply? What is the implication of the gospel in how we live out life now.

And the last topic that we did was Instruction for life, and we began to look at how can you and I begin to make correct application for our current status in life, it doesn't matter whether you are rich, whether you are poor, whether you are high, whether you are low, whether you are in adversity or you are in prosperity, what is the implication of the gospel for you now? Can you rightly divide the Word of truth for your current state in life? That was what the last topic, Instruction for life was dealing with.

So it's impossible to do crash course on it, you just have to take the full dose on it.

Yes, you might want to go on to our page facebook.com/xpose247 to actually get the full dose of these things.

Then if you notice, we actually stopped in the 6th verse of John Chapter 4 before we actually began to move to other verses or scriptures to clarify.

Now, we are going all the way back to where it started from.

Now, if you have scriptures with you or if you don't you can listen as we are reading John Chapter 4 from verse 6. We are supposed to look at the b part of that.

John 4 (NKJV)

6. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore being weary with his journey sat on the well and it was about the sixth hour,

Now the sixth hour there has an implication. The fact is in the Jewish system of counting the hours, the first hour of the day is 6am. We can get any good concordance or any good biblical history book, you can get that. The first hour is always 6am. So when it says is the sixth hour of the day, this is actually 12.00 noon. This is when the sun is supposed to be at the highest point. So this woman has come to the well when it was really hot.

Now, the reason why this is important that you take note of this particular clause and this phrase as we go on is to understand the timing is a bit strange because normally you get water in the cool of the day either early in the morning or later in the evening.

So it's important that we know the reason why she must have come to the well at this time of the day which is quite unusual. She doesn't want anyone to be there when she comes to draw the water. Why you may ask? You will soon notice as soon as we go down the other verses.

Now, go on please,

7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water.

Now, let's then begin to look at this, it means Jesus sat down waiting for the woman to show up. It will mean that Jesus was the one that took the initiative, the woman was coming to encounter Jesus.

Now the reason why this should be important to you is, you have to understand that Jesus has a ministry of three and a half years.

You know the ministry of Christ that has impacted for over 2000 years and is still impacting not just a particular set of people, we are talking about the whole world. We

are talking about the Middle East, Asian, Europe, North America, South America and Africa. That is a global effect, you see?

That ministry was going to be kick started and Jesus only has 3½ years to lay the foundation for that. If you are that type of person, you don't have time to waste around, every single thing that you are going to do within 3 ½ years for such a ministry has to be things that are so critical. And that is the reason why Jesus did everything on purpose within those 3 ½ years.

So his sitting and waiting for that woman was on purpose?

In fact, if you notice the previous verses that we read in previous transmission, the Bible says he had to go through Samaria. That word is a word of purpose.

So there was no going round about it?

Jesus had 3 ½ years, everything was on purpose. He had to do that because he knew every single thing was going to be critical for a ministry that will last all generations and affect all people on the face of the earth.

So I want to say to you Jesus sitting down by the well waiting on this woman was on purpose because Jesus being the God of the heaven and earth, in flesh knew what time she was going to come.

You know when Nathaniel met Jesus, Jesus said I saw you under the tree and Nathaniel was surprised, because Jesus was the Word of knowledge personify, he knew everything. In fact the scriptures says in the book of John, it says he knew what was in the heart of men and he need no one to tell him. He knew exactly the time the woman will show up at the well.

You know for you and I, if somebody gives you an appointment and you want to meet someone, the reason why you end up waiting for the person is you presume that the person will make up the appointment, but most time we get there on time, you are waiting on them, you get surprise because they delay the appointment. Not Jesus! He knew exactly what time the woman will show up at the well. But he took the initiative to go first so that he could be waiting on the woman.

What was it telling you and I about this particular event? It was pointing us to something deeper than the natural circumstance. It's to tell you that we have a savior that waits on humanity?

Now, it tells you we have a God who's got everything set waiting on us. And that is one key thing people need to understand about the gospel. The gospel of our Lord Jesus has one major principle that God has settled everything with mankind through the gospel and he is waiting on us to be reconciled back to him. And how do you see this?

Look at creation to start with, look at where it all began in the beginning, have you noticed that before God ever made man in his own image, he made man on the sixth day. He did that because he had to put everything in place in the garden before man was made. He made man after everything else was sorted out.

That is the principle he's passing across to us. That the God that we serve, will never invite us into anything unless he's already gotten everything sorted out. And we see, he was waiting on this woman.

Yes, I think I don't need to remind our audience the significance, why Samaria has to put himself in the map of this gospel- the significance of it in this story, because in our past transmission we talked about it. It's not that Jesus walked into Samaria absentmindedly, find himself in that Samaria because he know that city has a significance, why that woman must be from that city and not...

Thank you for that.

So there was a parable that Jesus gave, it talks about a man who was having a feast and he sent his messengers to go and get people to come to attend the feast. You know the message the master sent the servant, tell them all things are ready.

You know you cannot walk with the God whom you don't understand that his principles always start with the fact that all things are ready, that before he puts man on the planet, he has everything ready. That is why when he made Adam, he told Adam I have given you every tree, it is all ready. I don't ever invites you unless everything is ready.

Here was Jesus encountering a woman saying you know what? I am going to be here waiting, you are the one that will come and match up to where I am. I have gotten everything set. I am waiting on you.

I know people talk about scriptures like Isaiah Chapter 40 and say well, what about a time in which the scriptures say we are meant to wait on God?

You know the reason why you need to listen to this today is, the scriptures says in Amos Chapter 3 verse 3 that can two walk together unless they agree?

You cannot walk together with the God whose ways of doing things you don't agree with. You have to first come to agreement with his ways of doing things unless you cannot walk intimately with the Lord. His ways of doing things he never invites us unless all things are already, and if you understand that, it brings up something in your spirit man call faith.

Now, see! I was making reference to a particular event and before we go to that, I want you to read Isaiah 40.

People talk about the fact that what about Isaiah 40 that says we are meant to wait on God?

You can read from verse 29 and see what it says there...

Isaiah 40 (Amplified)

29. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who has no might he increaseth power, even youth grow weary and tired and even curious young men stumble badly but those who wait for the Lord, who expect, look for and hope in him, he gives new strength.

The Lord give them strength?

No! Maybe he said the Lord give them strength?

He gave new strength.

Can you see?

When we read this kind of scriptures, the common interpretation that people do have for Isaiah 40, even where it says they that wait on the Lord, is that we always think, even though we don't say that, but the common paradigm among people using this kind of verse is, if you wait on the Lord, if you were able to draw upon the Lord, if you were able to force the hand of the Lord, if you were able to fast, if you were able to pray and seek the face of the Lord, then you can convince the Lord to give you strength. But that is not what Isaiah 40 says.

He says well, you know what?

Look at verse 29.

He gives strength to the weary.

On his side, he is a giving God. But when you then come and meet him waiting at the well, then you are in a position to receive, to renew your strength.

So it means when people say pray until something happens, that is true. (You hear operation PUSH) They say pray until something happens. That is true, but not in the context in which people think it works. Because pray until something happens should simply mean pray until you can listen to what God has to say or pray until you can receive from God what God said was ready.

So PUSH should not mean pray until God will be ready to give or pray until God will be ready to release. That is not what Isaiah's 40 says.

He says, he give strength to the weary.

The waiting on the Lord comes after he said he gives strength.

Watch the structure, watch the order.

Now, today by the grace of God I believe we have the grace of God to talk to you about dealing with this waiting game. Can you see? Because he did not say, I repeat and I am going to take it slowly, he did not say they that wait on the Lord and then he says he give strength to the weary.

Look at the order of the scriptures.

Verse 29 says he is a giver God, then the next thing says they that wait on the Lord then they renew their strength.

So your waiting comes between the giving and the renewing. Your waiting did not propel the giving.

So this is what we see in the scriptures that every time you pray, every time you wait on the Lord, what it does is, it puts you in a position to draw and receive for renewal of strength.

This is the pattern that Jesus was painting with this woman, that this woman will come to a point where Jesus is the one waiting on this woman to come to a point where she can access the gospel.

Can you see? not the other way around.

Somebody might want to ask giving examples of Acts Chapter 2 to talk about the waiting game and say for the Pentecost, for the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Can't they draw from the examples of Acts Chapter 2?

Again if you go to Acts Chapter 2, it's very important that we actually look at that.

Now, look at Acts Chapter 2, that is a very good question you ask there because we are looking at this principle to see....

I want us to read it so that we can draw understanding from there because what we are doing today is we are talking about things that will brought forth faith in your spirit man. The scriptures says faith come by hearing and hearing by the Word. If you hear the true Word of God, it should bring forth faith in you. But if you hear human interpretation of the Word, is going to bring doubts and unbelief.

So let's look at Acts 2.

See what it says

Acts 2

1. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place and suddenly there came from heaven as a rushing mighty wind and it fills all the house where they were sitting.

Now, if you notice this verse, if you look at this on the face value, superficially, this is how it sounds. It sounds like they were waiting and until the Lord was ready to pour out or to release the Holy Ghost upon them.

Now, if you notice what Jesus told them in the book of Acts that was recorded, he told them that they should go into Jerusalem and they should wait upon the promise of the Father.

Look at Acts 1, you can read from verse 7

Acts 1

7. And he said it is not for you to know the time of the season which the Father has put in his own power.

8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Now, watch the terminology of the scriptures.

If you watch it, he didn't say but you shall be given power. Watch the tenses and watch the word.

He says you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea and in Samaria and to the utmost parts of the earth.

Verse 4 was saying

And they assemble together with them, and commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father, which ye said you have heard of him.

So there was a waiting, wait for the promise.

But of course this was after Jesus had resurrected and he became the baptizer in history but what Christ was simply telling them was they should go... that is why I said ,you cannot pick only one verse and make a doctrine out of only one verse. What he told them was to go and wait but it sounds like they have to wait until the Father was ready to give, but the waiting that we saw in verse 8 says they have to wait until they are ready to receive.

You know there are some things that Jesus did say that to him that can receive what I have to say.

Now it means everything that we are talking about, our waiting is important. We have to wait, that is why I did that wait on the Lord. We have to wait. Man has to wait. But the waiting of man is only supposed to allow man to be propositioned to be able to receive. That is why the tenses in verse 8 says and you shall receive power. Not that you shall be given power.

No!

That is why I said...

So our waiting does not energize him to give us, our waiting prepares us to receive, it opens us to receive.

For example, may I say this? There are some things that has not happen now in our generation yet, there are some things that has not taken place yet. There are some things we should be seeing in our times and days that are not even happening yet, not because God is not ready to make it happen, but is just simply because there are people that are not able to receive. It means we've not come to the point of receiving these things for our generation.

That is why there are times, you might ask a question how long should a Christian pray? There has been some kind of argument in the past where somebody says if you can't pray for 1hr, you can't pray for 2 hrs, you can't pray for some number of hours, that means you are not serious as a Christian.

Now, if you ask me how long should a Christian pray?

The answer to that question is, you have to pray until you can listen or hear what God has to say. Until your own voice, the voice from the environment, the voice from your circumstance, the voice from your situation, the voice in your head, until those voices are silent by the voice of the Lord. Until you are in a place where you can completely receive what God is saying to you, you have to keep on praying. That is why I said pray until something happens, is a correct thing to say but not in a way people say it. Can you see?

When people says PUSH, pray until something happens, they are saying pray until heaven is ready to release. No! You pray until you are ready to allow every other negatives, opposing voices, voices of doubt, voice of unbelief to drown out, until the Word of God can percolate into your spirit man and come alive in you, that is when you are ready to move out and be a blessing to your generation. That is what push really means, pray until that happens. Can you see?

So some people it might be 5mins...

So it's like pray until you are being push in that position.

That is why he told them you go and wait for me in Jerusalem until you are able to receive the Holy Ghost. At the moment you guys can't receive, you are full of doubt, full of unbelief, full of this and that, go and wait until you are in a position to receive.

That is why, if you notice one word in Acts Chapter 2, every word is important, they were all together in one accord, they got to a point... don't forget these people were so divided.. Think about it!

They came from different nationalities...

Even beyond them, even those of the same Jewish origin they asked Jesus the question, who is the greatest among us? Contending for position, contending for places even with Christ Jesus.

Look at James and John, the son of thunder. Look at the son of vanity, the mother brought them to Jesus and she wanted the two of them to sit at the left and right, so as to push the other people in the background. These people were divided. They were not together in one accord. Even the agreement of finances, should we give to the poor? They were not in agreement. There was so much disagreement even about the administration.

You can see that and Jesus said by this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. So these were a divided people and these were the same people that will carry Jesus to the generation of unbelievers? What happen? they gather together, they prayed together, they fasted together until they got into a place you can say they were together in one accord, in one spirit of unity.

So when they got to the point where... if you ask me, how did they get to one accord?

Well they stayed together in the upper room until those voices of division, those voices of separationist, everything drown out of their system.

So that is why he said, go there and wait until you are endue with power on high. I say you shall receive the Holy Ghost. Can you see that?

That is why I did say, look at this woman, this woman that Jesus was waiting by the well. He knew what time she was going to come, that was not his problem, but it was intentional that he presents the reality of the gospel to us by waiting first for the woman to come. And the woman encountered Christ, but you know one thing? See how long it took for her to encountered Christ, a lot of things has to drain out of her system before she was ready to get to a place where she can say yes, I think I have met the savior of the world.

So this is what we see, Jesus by this very event in John 4:6, is trying to show you a pattern of the gospel, where is the savior that is always wait on humanity not the other way round. That is what we see, and that is why he gives us a ministry.

I just hope somebody is listening today that the waiting should be on you, the waiting is on us not on him. And when you wait and nothing is happening, you cannot put the blame on heaven. If nothing is happening in your waiting game, you've got to be there until you are ready. Until every other things cannot stop you. Until you've come to a point where you know that you know that you've received whatever you are seeking the face of the Lord for.

For some people it can take them weeks, for some it can take them months, for some it can be years, for some it could be minutes.

Atimes some of us, the reason why it takes longer than other people is because some of the dregs, all the erroneous mentality, all the erroneous thoughts, wrong doctrines, wrong principles, conflicting ideologies, theologies that you have imbibed over the years, now you have come to a point where you begin to hear the gospel and you think things will happen overnight. Am sorry to say, is not that easy.

You've got to come to a point where you allow these things to drain out of your system, you need to wait. But your waiting on the Lord is not from him to give you power, is for him to renew your strength.

Please look at the order out of Isaiah 40:29-31. The order is important.

If you will take anything out of today's transmission, I will like you to remember that all things are ready. We see the readiness...

So today we want you to be convinced of the readiness of the Lord, of his availability.

The Lord that sits at the well waiting for you to come. He is the one that always sit for us.

So we want you to be convince of his availability and his willingness. So you don't go all around to arm-twist, you don't need to force seed and all those kind of things to him, to an unwilling partner. He is a willing God that all things are ready. There is nothing you are bringing to the table.

He is not calling you to say what are you bringing to the table? What are you contributing, are you a silent partner or so? What can you do to what is ready?

You can't! He gives power to the weak and give strength to those who are weary then they that wait on the Lord, they will then renew their strength. They can draw on what he's given in verse 29.

I just remember when people began to say things in the body of Christ like saying “do something to provoke the favour of God,” or they say “do something to provoke God’s blessing,” or they say you’ve got to give some seed to provoke God’s favour or you’ve got to do something. Some will even say can you turn around three times to provoke God?

All these things what they tend to do is, they undermine the integrity of the scriptures, they undermine the integrity of what Christ was trying to pass across in John 4:6 that you cannot do anything to provoke me to release the blessing.

No! You don’t do that.

When you wait on me, you are provoking yourself. You are trying to renew your strength, you are trying to draw on what I said I’ve given you.

Let’s see a pattern in 2Corinthians 5 before we leave.

We need to really talk about this waiting game. Can you see that? It’s the foundation of the gospel.

2Corinthians 5, you can start from verse 17.

2Corinthians 5

17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.

And I think this is one of the most read verses of the Bible.

People quotes this if you want to minister the gospel to somebody, that if you are in Christ, you are a new creation, old things have passed away.

This is essentially the fulcrum of the gospel, being born again that the flesh profit nothing, it takes the new creation spirit, that is what God is looking for.

In fact, in Philippians 3, he says circumcision is nothing but a new creation. That is what God is looking for, he doesn’t really care about the flesh of men, he is looking for a new creation. This is important.

Now, look at the next verses.

18. And all things are of God, who have reconciled us to himself.

Now, watch that tenses, he says all things are of God, who have done his part, who has reconciled, who has settled his account with us. He settled his account with us.

Everything in terms of forgiveness of sins, in terms of taking away our condemnation,

taking away our shame. God has settled his account in terms of healing humanity, he has settled his account.

In fact when it comes to your body, your body not decaying and corrupting for you to know that you will live forever, he says God has settled his account, all done and dusted. He had reconciled everything to himself through Christ Jesus. Watch the tenses!

So what does he says then?

and have given to us the ministry of reconciliation

Now again, this is where it is important. If you don't find your ministry in this ministry, I don't know where you got it from. He said all he give to us is the ministry of reconciliation.

I know there are people talk about my ministry, well your ministry should be a sub set of this ministry because all he gave, he didn't say he gave to us one of the ministry and one of them is reconciliation. He said he gave to us this ministry.

He didn't say a or the? the! article, specific.

There is no two way about it. That is all he gave to us, the ministry of reconciliation.

And somebody should not say that am not part of it. He said to us, every one.

No! He gave it to us.

So if your ministry is not found in this ministry, I don't know where you got it from. You might have gotten it from your father or you feel that you are not in ministry...

Well, if you think Oh! I don't think I have a ministry well, you don't know what you are talking about. If you are new creation, he gave you this ministry.

You know, I was talking about the fact that some people could have gotten the ministry from someone else because there is a place in 1Peter 1:17, 18, he says some things you got by traditions from your father. You can get ministry... but if it is from the Lord, it must be this ministry of reconciliation. The ministry of reconciliation is all he gave us.

What is about that ministry?

to which that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.

God was doing something in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.

not imputing there trespasses unto them

You know this is not the way reconciliation is supposed to work in our generation. I remember, if you are a student of history or even if you are not a student of history, if you

are quite somebody in your 40s and 50s, you can understand what happened in South Africa, the apartheid between the whites and the blacks. After the whole thing, when Clark, the leader then, when they gave everything back to the blacks in South Africa, they decide to set up a truth and reconciliation commission which was spearheaded by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. They called it the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

You know when they are doing the reconciliation, they had to call some whites and blacks and they had to listen to both sides, this is what they did. That is why you respond to what they did. Reconciliation never works with only one party, you've got to call the two parties to the table so you can have reconciliation. This is a very strange reconciliation that God did. This doesn't make any natural sense to natural humans.

God reconciled the world to himself. This is solo reconciliation.

And how effective is that?

God said am not going to wait on the world to come to the table, I am going to through Christ. He says God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.

I was waiting to say God was in Christ calling the world to the table so they can settle accounts...

You know he said God was in Christ, he reconciled the world to himself. He told the world, you know what? on my side, am no more fighting you guys, that is why he said not imputing their sins to them anymore, on my side I have nothing against you but I know you have something against me. But I don't have anything against you. This is a very strange reconciliation. You don't find it... it's not natural. And that is what God did in Christ. I have settled my account, I've forgiven you your sins. Can you see? Am no more condemning you? Can you see?

I've put every anger I have against sin on my son Jesus. Am not going to forsake you anymore because of what you've done wrong because, I have forsaken my son who said on the cross my Father, my Father why has thou forsaken me. I have forsaken my son. I used my son as a medium to be the punishment for sin. Everything I have against you I took it out on my son.

So on my part, I have nothing else against you. He said not counting their sins against them anymore.

So I am going to wait on you for you then to do what?

What is the next few verses?

and has committed unto us, the Word of reconciliation, now then we are ambassadors for Christ

doing what?

as though God did beseech you by us, we pray ye in Christ stead be ye reconcile to God.

Come to a savior who was already waiting on you. This is what the picture he painted. This is the real waiting now.

So you have to come and meet me sitting down on the well.

That is why I said in John 4:6 what Christ did, because he knew exactly the time the woman would come, but he had to go first and sit by the well waiting for the woman.

So every time you are believing God for anything in your life, every time you are trusting God for restoration of anything. Every time you are trusting the Lord for peace to come back in place, you have to understand that whatever you are trusting God for, God is saying I've perfected that in Christ.

If you are in a place where you are broken, if you are in a place where you feel dejected, you feel worn out, you feel as if the whole world is against you, no matter the place you are in at the moment and you are believing that you want God to come through for you or else you will not make it.

Let me say this to you, the scriptures is saying to you from here that God already came through in Christ Jesus for you. He came through by making his son become the curse for sin. He made the son forsaken, he made the Son become the emblem of the reject.

So he came through for you through his Son, he reconciled the world to himself waiting on the world. Keep on praying, keep on believing, keep on seeking the Lord but with the right mentality.

You are the one that all your prayers, all your seeking the face of the Lord, all you fasting is to bring yourself to a point where you can say now I think am reconcile, now am matching up to what he presented, to what he provided, am bringing myself to receive, to his readiness.

And if you think the problem is not being solved, please continue until you get to a point where you can say yes I receive, now I have, now I am working it.

This is what he said. He said any ministry that is not hammering this into people's understanding maybe they never got it from the Lord. He said this is the only ministry we receive from the Lord. He says he committed unto us this ministry.

A ministry that tells men that God's account is settled, you settle your account. You match up with him. You receive. You keep staying, keep praying until you are able to know within yourself that you have take it up, that you have receive. This is the word of

reconciliation. This is the ministry of reconciliation. That is the picture Christ presented to that woman when he sat down by the well, where he was waiting on that woman.

We appreciate the reconciliatory ministry of Christ because that is what elevates humanity. That is what put honour in humanity.

Looking at this example of this Samaritan woman, we can see her social position, we can see her moral position, we can see somebody that doesn't deserve the second look, and it's like a reject of society, just like we are the scorn of the earth. But because of the reconciliation ministry of Jesus that does not wait to test out the value or qualities or he wants us to get ready and get prepared so that we can say when you are ready blessed me, let's meet. We can approach him, he is already waiting, come as you are.

So that lady came to meet Christ sited just as she's disorganized, whatsoever that was going on her.

Now whatsoever that was going on her, and she came in like that. She had no time to change job. She had no time to make up for anything, she had no time to cover up anything. She came as she was.

We have a savior that is so keen, you can come as you are, you don't need any cover up because I have seen it all. That is the kind of savior and that elevates humanity, elevates any sub set of humanity. That is the honour that came upon her because for once a man was waiting for her at the well...

As we go on we begin to delve into there and look at this woman's demographics, background, social status...

But all the same we cannot just forget and gloss over the readiness and we cannot gloss over the God that coming to the table, everything is ready. You don't even need to renegade of cloth, you don't need to cover up, come as you are.

Thank you for that insight.

One thing I think about when we are looking at this kind of things is to say that even Jesus himself in the book of Acts tells us that 'he will be held in heaven until the times of restitution of all things' that is when Peter was preaching the gospel, you know when they say they were drunk and three thousand got converted, added to the church and Peter was saying... we might want to read that...

Acts 3

21. Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of his holy prophet since the world began.

It means he is saying that Jesus Christ, his return is actually hinge upon the fact that God wants to see the fruits of the sacrifice of his son. And what is the fruits of the sacrifice of his son? Until the time of restitution or reconciliation or when everything is brought back to the way they should be on the side of man, not on the side of God.

So every time you look at creation at the moment today. Every time you look at the world, you look at your life, may I say this we have a discrepancy at the moment between what heaven sees on the part of what Christ paid for and what we are experiencing in reality.

So our waiting on the Lord, our praying is (we are trying to match and say well on the part) that is what prayer does. Prayer doesn't make God do anything. Prayer doesn't push God to give you anything. Prayer is supposed to push you and say Lord, I know that you have reconciled these things unto yourself, but I have come to a point where I am saying Father I want this reconcile unto you. Can you see that?

That is why we preach the gospel. You don't go out there to preach to somebody and tell them that maybe if they believe Jesus long enough God will forgive their sins, we don't preach the gospel that way, isn't it?

You go out there to say your sins are forgiven, God is no more holding anything against you, why are you still holding something against God? It is time to bury the hatch. Can you see? That is what the gospel does.

Are you looking at say you are believing God for healing, and deliverance from any demonic attack, any satanic attack, from any situation. If you are believing God for that, God is saying the same thing to you and say you know what? I destroyed the works of the devil. The Bible says in 1John 3:8 for this reason the son of God was manifest to destroy the works of the devil. I did all that at the cross. So what happened? Why are demons tormenting you?

And you have to say oh Father! that demon, that situation has no right to torment me because I understand that you said in Colossians 2:14, 15 that you spoil principalities and power. That is what he did. He sorted that out at the cross. But man must say I know what you did at the cross and I am saying I have come to accept that as a reality now in my life. This is what prayer does.

Prayer is always supposed to make men to reconcile their life to what God said I have reconciled.

So to God I have done it.

That is the reason why the scriptures keep saying to us, he said who is he that will say to bring Christ from the dead, he said or to bring him down from heaven, he said the Word is near you in your mouth, in your heart,

It's right there. Match up with it now. Don't listen or submit yourself to a mentality or ideology that is still demanding that God reconciles himself. That is why that is not the kind of ministry he gave to us. He gave us the ministry of reconciliation, not for him to be reconciled but for us to be reconciled or for things around us to be reconciled. For situation to be reconciled, for circumstances to be reconciled, for creation to be reconciled, not him.

You know some ministry and some men profess today they are the ones that are trying, asking people to pray or cry so that God can reconcile things to him, that is not the ministry that we have received. And that is what we see in the pattern.

So let's go straight back to John Chapter 4 verse 7

So don't forget we've established one thing over the past couple of minutes,

7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water,

That is what you were trying to say... now I want you to take note of two words in that statement.

First, it was a woman, secondly, it was not just a woman, it was a woman from the wrong place. (I used the word wrong place) You don't want to come from Samaria. The reason you don't want to come from there is because you are already labeled, you have bad identity. If you have a choice, in fact first, that's a wrong gender to be at this time in history.

I know today now in our generation, it's hard for people to understand because women today are comfortable being women in their own scheme but in this generation, in this culture at that time, that was a wrong gender. This is a gender that doesn't give you a voice in the community.

You know the case where the woman was caught in adultery, the man was nowhere to be found. They brought the woman to Jesus because at that time, in fact we didn't even know if the man was a rich man, it wasn't about the fact that the man was rich or poor or the man was a higher status or lower status. Once you are a man, you have an edge already, in that time in that culture.

We are trying to paint a picture so that you can get what we are trying to pass across by the grace of God. So she was technically in the wrong gender. Her testimony can never be believed at that time. Yes, a woman's testimony was not admissible in court at that time, can you see that?

Women were second class citizen at that time. It was so critical at that time that even a woman today in our generation especially in the western world or part of the world now, anybody can go to court and say I want to divorce. A man can say I don't like wife or he can give a good reason. You can divorce your wife.

In the UK now, there is divorce with no fault. You don't have to give a reason.

Now, a woman can go now and say I divorce my husband. But you know in that time of this woman, only a man could divorce a woman. That is why they asked Jesus a question, they said can a man put away his wife for any reason. That is what they ask him in the gospel.

Now, you can't do it. Women were second class citizen, you couldn't even divorce the husband, it wasn't going to happen. So technically she was a woman and she was in wrong gender, she was in a lower gender ladder because of her gender. So watch that! Take note of that.

Now, as if that wasn't bad enough, she now compounded her situation because she came from Samaria. It wasn't by choice there, I was using the word so that people can get the picture. You know this is important because at the time if you want to talk to somebody back then in terms of... let's contextualize this event. Even if two Jews were fighting each other, two Jews were at war or they were not happy with each other and they want to just abuse each other. One Jew can tell the other Jew you are a Samaritan.

Now, when they say that among Jews that is the worst... it was like a curse to them. That is the worst thing you can call someone else. It's like calling somebody a bastard.

And they used that on Jesus because... they said you are a Samaritans. It didn't mean they didn't lose focus of where he come from, they knew he was son of Joseph, they knew he was a Jew, but that was a way to curse someone.

If people were so relegated that if you want to curse somebody else you have to say they are from that place...we are trying to paint a picture of what it means being from Samaritan. That is the fact. But I don't want to jump the gun by the grace of God, because I just want to give you a small picture about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you notice, every time Christ was presenting the gospel, he always put the Samaritans on the upper edge.

You know the parable of the man who is a good neighbor?

The good guy was a Samaritan, there was no bad Samaritan. Historian will recall it as the good Samaritan, putting goodness on the...

Jesus put goodness on being a Samaritan. Today they never say good Samaritan...why?

Look at the gospel! You know why it is so strange is that, the Jews, the teacher that was listening to the parable of the good Samaritan.

Jesus asked him, who was the neighbor?

He couldn't even say the Samaritan, because they were not allow to say it. He said the one that had mercy on him. He couldn't bring himself to say it was a Samaritan.

Jews cannot bear to put that curse word Samaritan in their mouth. He couldn't say it. He couldn't acknowledge that the Samaritan was a good one. He said the one that had mercy, as if the man that had no ethnic... that is the picture we are painting.

So here was a woman who was coming (I will call it from a bad side of a social status, a bad side of a gender) she was coming from the lower rung of the ladder. And she was the one that Jesus was waiting on. How do you see the gospel?

This is painting a very strange picture of what the gospel is all about.

This was the person that Jesus was waiting on. If you are going to wait on someone, I understand if the captain, I understand if the Recruit was waiting on the General of the Army but when the General is waiting on the Corporal or the Sergeant, that doesn't make any sense. This was a woman of this kind of "quality" that Jesus was waiting on.

What does that tell you and I?

And Jesus knowing the short time of the ministry, it's mind blowing. This was a person he was waiting on.

So this waiting game we are talking about today in reality is got nothing to do with gender, it's got nothing to do with your social class, is got nothing to do with your financial status, is got nothing to do with your background. Don't ever attach the fact that the savior waited on you because there was something nice about you or something good about you.

In fact in the book of Romans, he said while we were yet without strength (sinner), sinner was good, that was a good thing but also when we were even helpless. A helpless person has nothing to bring to the table. A powerless person has nothing that you want to get from them. They can't really help you.

He says while we were yet sinner, while we were yet with nothing to offer, Christ died for us.

Can you see that book of Romans?

What does that tell you and I?

The reason why Christ waited on this woman is got nothing to do with whether there was something valuable about this woman. There was nothing of quality as at that time that she had. She had no quality, no virtue there was nothing that you can say there was something that I can actually make use of in that woman. There was nothing, and yet she waited.

I think unfortunately for her, she was even the worst of the Samaritans because based on her moral value among the Samaritans, among the female gender, she has a lot to be spoken of...

Now, how does this affect you as you listen to this? it will mean that every time you come before the throne of mercy, every time you come to the throne of grace, every time you know that you are coming to renew your strength before the savior who is waiting on you, please don't ever think in your head or in your mind that there was something nice, that is why he must have made everything ready for you.

No! it's got nothing to do with it. The gospel of our Lord Jesus does not work on your credibility, does not work on your integrity, does not work on your morality, does not work on your goodness, does not work on your capacity, does not work on your strength, does not work on your pedigree, your background, your degree, it doesn't work on your status, it's got nothing to do with you.

It's not about you, it's about him. "While we were yet without strength, he still chose to die for the ungodly." And this is the picture he painted for us in John 4:7, that am going to wait on a woman that has nothing of value about her life based on gender and based on where she came from, and based on her choices and judgment.

There is nothing of value. For if she was like every other person, she wouldn't need to be hiding and coming at a particular time of the day. So she was worse off even in the city, worse off as a woman, worse off as a Samaritan based on her moral choices and judgment. This is the picture of the gospel. This is what Christ showed us by this encounter with this woman. And that is what we saw there in verse 7.

He says there comes a woman of Samaria to draw water,

That is what we see in that place.

You want to say one or two things?

It is very encouraging to anybody that feel like he's an outcast now, if you are feeling that you are a reject of the society, you are feeling you have no privilege and so much of prejudice, there is something you can look up to in this story of John Chapter 4 and see that the Christ is for you and Christ is waiting.

Now, please I think so that people don't misunderstand what we are talking about, don't ever think that we are saying that the gospel is only for the people who are lower there. We didn't say that.

But what we are simply saying is it seems to us and through the Word of God that it's most people who are down and out are the ones that are much more receptive to the gospel, that is why in one of the epistle in Corinthians where it says "beloved watch yourselves, not many of you are wise according to the standard of this world, not many of you are mighty."

That means there were wise people in the body of Christ, they were mighty people in the body of Christ but not many. You know why they are not many? Because of course, the mighty people, the wise people think they have something of value, they can throw something with Christ. They understand the reason why Christ wants to save them. It means there is something, no wonder he's waiting on me at the well. Because at least I've got something, we can both throw something at the table, that is why not many wise people are receptive to the gospel. That is what Paul was saying not many of you are mighty and wise and strong, but here comes a situation.

So there are mighty people who have received the gospel, there are wise people who have received the gospel and there are down out people who have received the gospel. So whether mighty, or not mighty, whether stupid or wise the fact is, the true gospel of the Lord Jesus doesn't come to you because of you.

While you are bold and thinking about that people might just be thinking they are always talking because the gospel is about the down and out...can you see is amusing that even the down and out are being taken out of the gospel equation? Even in all these spiritual garden, we have no place for them because they feel like, even the down and out could not even access the grace of God even in the so called ministry that people are receiving today. Some people say they are called to the politician, captains of industry, even the kind of that woman can never have a place to even hear there so-called ministry of reconciliation, call to this nation, call to presidents.

When people create such ministries, it will mean that they are not processing the implication of the gospel. That is why the scriptures itself has a self-corrective measure.

Because if people do not have anything to sow, so you can find out that there is no place for them or if you are not a Samaritan or if you are a man maybe you have an option with Christ, but if you are Samaritan and you are a woman, you are out. Can you see that?

And it seem the gospel that favour some citizen more than these. It favour a class of this, people that look like a particular race...

Well, anywhere you see that type of presentation of the gospel, they might not be saying that directly but if they are painting that type of picture, they are not speaking for Christ. We saw Christ himself what he displayed in John 4:7 through this Bucket Ministry Series. They are not speaking for Christ.

That is why in the book of James, the Apostle James rebuke people with such mentality saying you say to someone come and sit at my seat, because he looks poor and somebody has gold ring, has a rich apparel and you tell him come and sit at the different point, he said are you not evil judges in your heart?

Anywhere you see that type of ministry, they are not speaking for Christ. The Christ we know and the Christ we see on the pages of the scripture on John 4:7 was the one that waited for this woman, not because of this woman, it was inspite of this woman, not because of any value she has to offer, it was Christ that died and paid the price and reconcile the world to himself on his own. He didn't have to wait for us. He didn't have to look for anything nice in us to trade off, before he paid the price. That is the true gospel.

If anybody speak anything otherwise or does anything otherwise in there ministry, they did not speak for the true Christ of the scriptures that we see. That is what we know.

We see a Christ does not show any preferential treatment for any particular place or social class, No! He will speak to the Jews... Have you notice Jesus, he will eat with the rich and the poor. He was with Lazarus and he was with Zacchaeus. And also he when to the house of rich people and help them, and also you will see him talking and relating and presenting the gospel to a woman of Samarian, the same Christ.

He will do everything, because it's whether you are poor, whether you are rich, whether you are tall or short, whether you are man or woman, whether you are white or black, it doesn't matter. It's got nothing to do with whatever value you are bringing.

I think some minsters today they only wait for people who know that this kind of class, this kind of money, they will rather see preferential treatment, for some class of people, for some kind of race, we see Jesus waited. He's not going to treat that woman less. Because for this story we are only focusing on this woman and we know the integrity of the gospel, we've see Jesus how he related with the Zacchaeus-the custom officer, never seen one being preferentially treated above the other, we see that this same woman he was waiting, he did not just cast out and say who is there? Let me just talk with you within a minute, No! he treated her and giving her all the accord and the honour. And that is what Jesus is calling us to, to really understand and how to relate.

And there is one thing I want to say, if you are a student of church history