

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 37

Title: Seeds Don't lie

And in the last transmission, if you have listen to it and if you have not, we are asking you to go back after this episode to listen to it. We talked about Judgment. Who is qualified to make judgment? And how we can make judgment.

We are admonished to log out before we can take a peek into our neighbour.

The logging out is not the digital logging out.

Well, some needs to even digitally log out in the sense of it... We are talking about removing the log in your eye before you can see the speck; before you are qualify to talk about the speck in somebody's eye. And we raise two points why we need to do that.

The first point was about the painful process of removing the log. So when the person that wants to pass judgment has to undergo that pain – we will be able to show compassion and empathy when you want to remove the speck.

And again we talked about the clarity of perspective. By removing the log you are open to see from both sides and you are not being blinded by any side.

So we are going to continue from verse 27 of the 4th Chapter of the book of John as we go where this discussion leads us.

Viewers welcome again to this another great episode of this Bucket Ministry Series. Join us as we begin to glean into the gospel implication of the discourse between this woman and Jesus.

Now quickly, we can carry on today from the 28th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John.

Can you read?

John 4

28. The woman then left the water pot, went away to the city and said to the men...

Now the thing is, if you look at that 28th verse it did actually highlight the fact that as a result of the encounter of the woman with Jesus, it says there was a then. There was something that happened because of that encounter and we are going to look at that quickly.

And before we make some connection between the activities of this woman in the 28th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John. I want you to understand the backdrop that Jesus himself right at the beginning of the conversation with this woman began to make reference to the natural environment or the natural activity of this woman.

In fact at a point, the woman almost got confused thinking that the focus of the conversation with Jesus was about the well she is seeking to draw from, or is about the water, or about the place where she came to draw. She thought it was all about that.

But Jesus of course was pointing to deep things of the spirit. Jesus was pointing to things about her life, about the thirst, about her desire, about her worship. We've addressed all these things in previous episodes.

But you see, when Jesus was talking about things about worship; she taught it was all about water. And Jesus always does this. You know if you look at the gospel you see him making reference to earthly things to explain spiritual principle. We call it parables. So Christ always does this kind of things with people in the gospel.

So in this case, coming back to 28th verse of this 4th Chapter. What we see this woman did in this place is she dropped her water pot.

Now what is important to us is, we've never had any place in this discussion with Jesus where Jesus advised that you have to drop the water pot. There was no instruction. There was no information. It was a result of the encounter.

He says then, the woman left. Can you see?

Then she left her water pot...

The encounter she had with Christ resulting in decision that she made as a result of that encounter.

Have you notice one thing? If you notice, she did say to Jesus previous verses before this activity, she said to Jesus give me this water to drink, so I will not have to come and draw again from this well.

But have you notice that in this case, it wasn't a matter of she stopping to come and draw from the well; it was a matter of she dropping the channel, the container, the means by which to draw from the well.

And you see this activity that she did by dropping the water pot, reveals to you and I, the very core of the gospel. That the gospel is not about stopping you from coming to draw from those... or coming to quench your thirst, or other thing that people talk about in religion, that religion is about character reformation to say you know what? If you want to follow Jesus these are the things you need to stop doing. If you want to follow Jesus you have to stop coming to the well to draw water, you have to stop trying to satisfy your thirst with this and that. That is the way you can follow Jesus.

Well the gospel is deeper than that. What the gospel is focus on doing is shattering and destroying the very core, the centre, the container, the real things deep down in your soul that makes you long for other things other than God and his grace.

So in this case we see the woman, she didn't just say you know what Jesus? I will stop coming to draw water from that well. She left the water pot. She dropped the water pot. So the gospel is not just about reforming and making you better. What the gospel does is it goes to uproot the core of the life of a man and uproot the heart of stone and put the heart of flesh.

What the gospel does is, it goes to the core and the centre of a man's life and rebuild them and put a newness of the spirit right in them. That is what we see.

Dropping the water pot is a parable....

*It is good to know this because today we see people trying to dehydration. I don't need this.the supposed benefit of that kind of lifestyle, can we do the two together? We are not being offensive. We are looking for steps. We are looking for modification. People go about modification trying to present the gospel with modification so people can understand. It is not threatening, it is *accommodating*. Without losing good worth because people want to build good worth*

But we saw that the gospel is revolutionary. It is just like a jealous, it is not accommodating... She had to drop the water pot - the very container that draws those things.

And the way to look about that thing is easier for people to drop what is not useful or what is not working again.

It's so easy to convince and drop something and feel, oh! It is not even working. It is leaking. But we are talking about the functional one; the one that the woman go there to drop water. So the water pot was serving and is still in the useful stage. But this encounter is the one that will force you to drop.

So is a call to drop what is working. We might be deriving benefit from some things that is working in our life but the admission into admitting the gospel of the Lord into lives make us to drop that which is even working, that which is giving things out.

Let's relate this to the core of the gospel. Talking about the epistles and all these things where the gospel is explained. This simply means if you are in Christ, an encounter with the Lord Jesus doesn't just end up with saying you know what? You just go out there to begin to... you have to stop doing this or stop doing that. And if you can do that, that means Jesus will accept you.

What the gospel does is, it smashes at the very core of the nature of sin— the water pot. That container in humanity that is the one actually gulping and gulping... those drawing the water, the one that is serving you, the one that is actually looking for water to quench its thirst. The origin. It goes down to smash it.

And that is why the scriptures tell us that they that are Christ have crucified ... (past tense) they are not in the process. They are not doing it by and by and they get serious with God.

They that are Christ. They that belong to Christ, they have crucified the flesh which means the core, the thing that actually want to be sinful, that thing that want to be independent of God, that thing that is looking for things to satisfy it, that thing within, that nature of sin.

He said they that are Christ. They are not in the process of it. They have crucified with the flesh with the affections.

So it means in Christ, the water pot is broken. The encounter with the Lord breaks the water pot off a man's life. It is not if, by or but. It's broken off their life.

So we saw this woman gave us a demonstration by the activity of her dropping the water pot after the encounter with Christ Jesus.

And then you are wondering there and you are simply saying does that mean if somebody is born again and somebody is in Christ they will not be looking to people, looking to circumstance, looking to things, looking to life to satisfy the urge and the thirst they have? We didn't say that.

What we are simply saying is the origin and the source of sin; the condition of sin within that is part of an unbeliever is not part of a believer.

They that are Christ have crucified the flesh with his affections.

Infact, what happened in Galatians is what happened at new birth is illustrated with operation. He said you having the circumcision of the spirit. You know to circumcise is to cut off the fore skin. He says in new birth that foreskin, that nature of sin is cut off and disconnected from you. It was taken to the cross and Jesus put it to death.

In the Garden of Eden, when God came to Adam and Adam sinned and he was hiding himself among the leaves and all that and God came and said who told you that you were naked? There was an entity involved. There was a nature involved. There was a personality involved. And the scriptures tell us in Christ, that personality, that nature of sin, that body of sin was put to death in Christ. The water pot was broken. That container was smashed in Christ Jesus.

I want us to look at one or two things before we go on to the next verse, which is verse 29.

Let's read the book of Galatians.

Before we go into the book of Galatians, it is imperative that we stretch this, especially in this generation where people are being giving flexibility to create their own bundles... you know you choose this, you can select and deselect. And so people want to approach that and bring them to Christianity, to the gospel

And when I talk about Christianity, I hope our audience know, I am not talking in the form of religion, I am talking what Christianity is, the Christ life, the encounter with Jesus.

So people want to select what they want to listen to, they invite this one, and they deselect. And people come into package trying to speak to the language of what the people understand. And when you are addressing the business forum, know the part of the scriptures that appeals to them, and people want to hear it in there own vocation.

But we are being called into an exclusive relationship. It is an exchange life. It is not an addition. It is a substitution. You have to drop completely.

Thank you for that.

It means the gospel will not bring you to a point where you have to then block all the channels to the water like saying, Jesus would have said to the woman, the only way to help you now is we are going to block all the ways like religion try to do. You know what? Don't come to draw from the water again. People still retain the water pot.

But what religion try to do is to block all channels to make sure you don't come to draw water again and block the pathway to the well and say you know what? make sure you don't talk to people like this. You see men and women atimes can separate and sit apart in some cases. Or they make laws and make it a crime for you to go and draw water and enforce and say well this and that... but people still carry the pot in their hands and they are salivating and hypocrisy going on for it, breeding hypocrisy...

And carrying the pot and trying to...

But you see in this woman's case, the very source, the very core, the things that actually draw this water broke after the encounter with our Lord Jesus.

It's good to know the not forceful nature of this encounter because the woman out of her own volition had to leave the water pot, because today we see people that say they have to force you into it. They said this thing is good for you; this is what the Lord wants for you. This is what the Lord is saying to this congregation. You don't feel like it. You don't understand it. But they are going to force and make you come into that encounter. So we are going to cease the water pot.

So we want you to come into this experience and encounter, so we are going to take this off you, when you don't understand or you will be able to show gratitude later on when you understand, when you come into it. I am doing this because I love you. I am doing this because I could see what you did not, but Jesus despite that he loves this woman, the choice was for her.

So it was she responded and Jesus never mentions the fact that you have to drop the water pot. Can you see that? There was no such instruction. But she encountered Christ and she dropped them.

And that is telling us that there is no need for people to manipulate people. It was not suggestive because today we see so many doctrines and we see the enforcement and the subtle manipulation, people being subjected to do things that it does not come out of the understanding. No matter how we are so passionate about getting the message across. We have to follow the footsteps of Jesus our Lord and see that there is no need to manipulate people. There is no need to suggest and enforce and trust the leading of the Lord and the working of the Lord will make people come into this understand themselves and out of their own volition they can be able to draw...

It means if people understand the encounter with the Lord, if people will see the Word of God, automatically some things begin to drop because they have come into an experience of Christ through the gospel. And that is the responsibility of the minister of the gospel to bring the Word.

See! Christ brought the Word to this woman. He spoke to this woman. He didn't talk or say anything about the pot and she just dropped it.

And it is the responsibility of the minister - those who bring the Word, that they will not be tempted to do extra... to put their own energy or flesh and say what else can I do? You can walk passionately than Jesus who is going to the cross with this woman. Resist the temptation.

Now, I think there is something we need to have a look at quickly in this.

Can you please read from Galatians Chapter 5 from verse 16 and let see what the Word of God has to say?

Galatians 5

16. I say then, walk in the spirit and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you which.

27. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control against such there is no law.

Now, this is very important. It says the fruit of the spirit.

I know some of you might have heard the fruit of the spirit, where people sing songs about this, talk about this and all that. But have we taken time to meditate and think about that phrase... the fruit of the spirit?

Now, the first thing he talks about is, when it comes to the walk of the spirit in the life of a person, he said it is a fruit.

Now, think about this... a fruit.

You know when it comes to things in life; people can cheat and do different kind of things. People cheat on exam, some people even talk about overnight success where people can play the system or some people can hit the jackpot. Things happened over

night, some people call it miraculous, things can happen over night in many cases, in some cases or in some circumstance.

But when it comes to planting seeds to grow and give you a fruit. There seem to be no way to short-circuit the system. That when the seed is planted in the ground, it must need go through the process of germination to produce the tree and produce the flower and produce fruit.

So the scripture tells us that the walk of the spirit in the life of a believer, what it does is, it produces fruit. It means botanically speaking when the seed is in the ground; it is inevitable that it will produce. It will release. It will generate. It will do its work but the most important thing is that the seed is planted in the ground. It will reproduce.

That is why you are talking about the fact that you don't need to put pressure on people. All you have to do is trust the fact that the seed is planted. That is why the Lord Jesus in the parable, in the gospel when he was talking about the sower sowing seed on different types of ground. When Jesus was going to give interpretation, he said the seed is the Word of God. We have to come to the point where we trust the only inevitability of the fact that once the seed is planted, it will produce. I used the word it will produce. You have to trust the fact that the seed will always produce.

1Peter 1: 18, 19 talks about the fact that the Word of God is the incorruptible seed. He says **you are born again not of the corruptible seed, but of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, which live and abides forever.**

I think the problem is the impatient of people to say now we've planted the seed. We know you are born again. We know the water pot is broken. We know the source, the origin of sin has been taken away and the Holy Spirit has taken root, but we can't seem to see the fruit and people get tempted to begin to employ different means and strategies. And that is what we see there.

The main thing is to have the seed of the Word of God planted in a man's heart to take root and evict the nature of sin in the heart.

I think most of them get tempted, I am talking of ministers - people that preach this and not remembering forgetting that the Word of God is a seed and people are relying on the energy of the flesh and their gift. And people are being drawn to it and people are talking about the style and forgetting that beyond all these 9 the packaging) the Word of God is a seed and in itself has inherent ability to produce and germinate.

And not trust our delivery or people are believing the packaging, the delivery - the eloquence and so forgotten that the Word is a seed. And in some without anything it will produce...

All it needs is to give it the right environment for it to produce. For example, if you are listening to this today, you are watching this transmission. We are not claiming we have the magic wand to cause transformation in your life or to help you break through the limitation that the world has places on you or to help you become the best you can be by because of what we say.

What we are simply claiming by the Word of God is that we are only giving the seed of the Word of God that is planted in your heart. The environment, the nourishing, that is what teaching does. It helps you to nourish, it encourages you for the Word by itself has capacity. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how far. It doesn't matter the limitations.

In fact, in our own house, we've have an instance where a tree began to grow and began to break through walls, even breaking down walls and all that. It tells you and I, that the seed is very stubborn. It will grow and it will break through limitations but it takes patience to understand that the Word of God, Christ in you is the seed, and inevitably it will find an outlet for growth.

So all you have to do is just to encourage it, give it the right environment. So your listening to the Word of God, your prayer life, your communion with other Christian, your going to fellowship, all these things are just to grant an enabling environment for the seed itself to grow.

So what this woman understood in the 28th verse of John Chapter 4 is that she got to a point of saying it's about the root, it was about the core. So she broke the water pot because something else, Christ has come to take growth where she is.

And you know one thing about growth, whether botanical growth or growth in most cases. You know is very hard to simply say I can observe the tree growing now. I can see that the seed has germinated. Oh! Can you see its coming up?

I don't think anyone can actually say that with all confidence.

In fact, in some of the botanical videos that people watch, most time they are time-lapse videos. You know time lapse videos can show you how the things is growing because they have taken those shorts over a long time and they compressed the videos or picture so that you can see how its growing.

Without even showing that kind of situation, just by natural observation, you don't seem to see the growth right in your very eye, yet is growing.

So we are simply saying this to you today, look at the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, longsuffering, patience, all these things that are in the Word of God, you have to understand that the Word of God in you, Christ in you is producing, will produce all these things, but you have to have the confidence, you have to have the faith in the fact that the Word of God in you is a seed and the seed will inevitably grow even though it might not be at the pace or at the speed that you desire, but it will definitely grow.

That is why the Word of God goes into our heart at new birth. It breaks the water pot. The Word of God, Christ himself is the seed that is planted in the heart of our soul. So he doesn't go for the peripheral or the superficial. He goes right down into our heart because he knows that is what matter.

So this woman broke the water pot. So is not a matter of stopping her from coming to draw water. It is about the water pot, the source, the origin and that is what the Word of God deals with in our heart.

As the Word of God is going forth we are trusting the Lord that he is going to free us from all these external pressure – external pressure for those who minister the Word of God, external pressure to appear in a particular way so that the message can be this, to talk in a particular way, all these external pressure that come to people and when they are waiting -during the time of germination, during the time of growth. They become bitter because they are putting so much, their own physical flesh, their own physical energy, the things that they have trained themselves for, they have invested beyond investing in prayer and in the Word because we are to labour in God's Word and study to show yourself approved.

But we see some other external thing that people are bound to do because they thought the Word of God needed much of all these. So when they don't see the desirable result we begin to see bitterness coming in. So all those pressure... we are trusting the Lord that as this Word is coming forth, he is relieving us of those pressures to understand that the Word of God is a seed itself. And it has inherent ability to deliver, to produce.

Thank you for that.

That is a very important thing for to say.

Now can you just read Galatians 5 verse 24 and 25?

24. And those who are Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desire

25. If we live in the spirit let us also walk in the spirit. Let us not become conceited provoking one another, hating one another.

In fact a particular translation says if we have our life by the spirit let us also walk in the spirit.

Now the awareness of the scriptures like Galatians 5 verse 25 is simply saying it doesn't matter how much growth is happening in your life, it doesn't matter how much progress

you are making in the things of the spirit. It doesn't make you any more to live in the spirit.

I will say that again, if we live by the spirit, let us also walk by the spirit. Walking in the spirit is only a possibility because you already have your life in the spirit.

So your walking in the spirit doesn't make you have your life in the spirit because you have your life in the spirit that is why you can walk in the spirit. And I think that understanding is so important.

Just because you are having more joy, you are able to suffer long, just because you are making progress with your endurance. Just because you are becoming more selfless, you are becoming more loving; demonstrating the fruit of the spirit doesn't in anyway prove that now you are living in the spirit.

No! No!!

Galatians 5:25 says if we have our life at the spirit, right at the point where the water pot broken, right at the point where the seed of the Word of God is planted in your heart, right at the point where Christ has become your saviour and your Lord, right at that point you have your life in the spirit.

Now your life is no more in the flesh, your life, is no more in things, your life is no more in people, your life is no more in money, your life is no more in friends. Your life at that point is no more in your race. Your life at that point is no more in your skin colour. Your life at that point is no more in human acceptance or human rejection. Your life at that point is not based on your location; where you live. Your life at that point is not based on your social economic status. Your life is in the spirit at that point.

And you then have to trust and believe and be persuaded that the seed of the Word of God is already there at that point.

Maybe you are struggling with an addiction or you are struggling with something that is limiting or a contention or a problem and this particular thing is coming back again and you say oh my God! Does this then mean all these things are just wasted effort?

Don't let the enemy deceive you. You already have your life in the spirit. That is what we have come to say to you today that the woman in John 4:28 did not say to Jesus, I will make so much effort not to come to the water again, not to come to draw.

No! The point she demonstrated was, at this point, at this stage, an encounter with Christ means the water pot is broken. Before we even talk about whether I come back to draw water or not, the water pot is broken. The container of sin is broken. The source of sin is broken. The origin of sin, the nature of sin, the body of sin is broken.

And that applies to you and I, to say at the point of the encounter with Christ, at the point of repentance and forgiveness of sin, at that point, at that stage, the body of sin is taken away and the nature of Christ is imputed to you at that point.

You must then trust and be confident in that reality until that seed begins to grow, until that seed begin to manifest, until that seed begins to germinate. And don't forget in most cases, I think one of the reasons why we get discourage is because growth is not easily observe in people.

Infact, in most cases, there are people that when I see them after some few months or few years, Wow! you have grown so much. And when you say that, their parent who has lived with them, they scarcely notice the growth. That is why the scriptures says the fruit of the spirit- it means the in working of the Holy Ghost in your heart. You might not even observe it. You might not even notice that you are becoming less irritable than you used to be. You might not even notice that you are becoming more selfless than you used to be. You might not even notice, it might be others who are noticing those things in your life and around your life.

But we have come to say to you that the in working of the Holy Spirit has liken to the fruit of the spirit, and that should tell you that by wisdom, it means it takes patience. It is not going to happen overnight. It takes you to be confident in his

ability because it might not be easily observable. But surely and definitely it is growing in your heart until the perfect day when Christ will show up to take us up.

And that is what we see there.

Thank you so much for watching today.

For want of time, we will not be able to continue but we just want to encourage us that we should believe in the process. And it is good that you are linking it beyond the Ministers, to those who receive the Word to believe in the process that the Word that they have receive, it has the inherent ability to produce those fruit even when they feel like they have seen it or they have not seen it or not, but its growing inside of them and they have to stay true to it.

Because you cannot imagine somebody who planted something and is coming to check every day and uprooting, let me see, is it actually growing? You have to believe that this Word has inherent ability in itself to produce and to manifest.

So till we see you next time, we want to say as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

God bless you.