

Made For Mission
Week 4
Who Is My Mission?

Good morning everybody. We are in week four of our “Made For Mission” series. If you’re here for the first time or missed some of the past three weeks let me quick get you caught up. Week one we said that we are all called. If you are a follower of Jesus, then he has put you on the planet for a reason. He strategically placed you where you live, work and play to join him and his mission. So week 2 we asked the question what’s my mission? In a nutshell, your mission is Jesus’s mission. It’s to grow in relationship with God and to introduce him to others. Week three we answered the question, what’s my message? We learned that it’s simply sharing with others how the goodness of God has intersected with your life.

Today we are answering the question, **“Who Is My Mission?”** Some of you this morning might be saying, I get that we are to share our story but are we supposed to walk up to random people and start talking? The answer to that is, if you want to.

I love how Jesus is no respecter of who you are or what your status is. Jesus took the time to speak to the spiritual elite and the societal outcast. Today we are going to look at one of those conversations that not only changed an individual’s life forever but also a whole city.

Turn with me to **John 4:1-6**

“Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacobs well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, set down by the well. It was about noon.”

Just a little side note here, most Jews would actually make this trip a day longer than necessary by intentionally going around Samaria. The Jewish people

despised the Samaritans because they saw them as sellouts. They were the people that intermarried with the people of the land so they were only half Jews. What's interesting here is that Jesus actually went out of his way to go through Samaria.

John 4:7-14

“When the Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, will you give me a drink? His disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, you are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you be asking me for a drink? For Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, if you knew the gift of God and who it is that ask you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. Sir, the woman said, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

I think it's interesting how the different people in this scene apparently saw this woman. The woman saw herself as just a Samaritan woman and shame was all over her. The disciples pass by her without even looking or saying anything to her.

But Jesus saw that she was worth it. Worth going out of his way to meet her.

Worth crossing social barriers that restricted the good news.

Look up verses 15-18

The woman said to him, sir, give me this water so that I won't go thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water. He said to her, go, call your husband and come back. I have no husband, she replied. Jesus said to her, you are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

In the first century middle eastern culture it was a man centered world. Women were seen as second-class citizens and men had all the power. It was completely acceptable for a man to have several premarital sexual relationships and if a husband wanted to divorce his wife all he had to do was give her a certificate and kick her to the curb. So this isn't a woman that jumps around from guy to guy, this

is probably a woman who has been used and abused over and over by multiple men. She knows what it's like to feel pain and loss. She probably is carrying some bitterness and anger along with her shame.

They continued to have a conversation and Jesus even reveals to her that he is the Christ. It's amazing to me that Jesus had not revealed who he was up until this very moment to a woman that nobody would look in the eye. After he revealed this, ***“the woman went back to the town and said to the people, come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ? They came out of the town and made their way toward him.”***

Look what happened after the woman went around spreading her message to her neighbors. Look at **verses 39-42.**

“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, he told me everything I ever did. So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, we no longer believe just because of what you said, now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

So there is this impromptu spiritual revival among the Samaritans that goes on for two days. How does that happen? The very woman that people had cast aside comes back into a village of people that had rejected her and convinces them to meet her new friend and Savior Jesus.

So I asked the question again this morning, **“Who Is My Mission?”** The answer is simple, it's everybody! God has strategically placed you where you are to reach one or some. Noticed this woman goes back to the town where she is from. This is very significant.

There is a Greek word that is mentioned throughout the New Testament that helps us answer the question it's the word “Oikos.” It was the ancient Greek equivalent of a household, house, or family. The average Oikos is usually made up of about 8 to 15 people.

- In Luke 8, the demon possessed man was told to return to his household (Oikos) and described The great things done for him.

- In Luke 19, Zacchaeus was told salvation had come to his household (Oikos).
- In John chapter 4, the centurions whole household (Oikos) was saved following the healing of his son.
- In Acts 10, Cornelius was a righteous man who feared God with all his Household (Oikos).
- In Acts 16, The Philippian jailer and his entire household (Oikos) baptized in the middle of the night.

What does that look like for you? God has intentionally and strategically placed you in your family, friendships, neighborhood and workplace to reach out to those you were already doing life with.

For a lot of us, this kind of message causes us to make a major shift in our lives. In order to make this shift we must pray Lord would you give me your heart for the lost.

Thank God for people who will put their reputation, comfort, and dignity on the line to share their story to anyone who will listen. When I was 17 years Old I had a friend who would share with me that I needed Jesus. She didn't care what I thought about her and I realize now that she cared greatly for me even though I wanted nothing to do with her Jesus at the time. I credit her persistence in sharing her message to me and praying for me as the very reason for me standing before you today.