

Recognizing Revival Moments (Part 1)

John 4

- It is my personal opinion that everything we are experiencing right now, is actually the labor pangs of revival — there's new life coming.
- **But great revival movements of God are made up of millions of great moments with God, all happening at the same time.**
- Emily and I had one of those moments two weeks ago...
 - Perspective change - three areas...
 - It was "revival moment"
- In **John 4**, there are these two divine revival moments.
- One with a person who doesn't know Jesus, and one with a group of people who DO know Jesus. It's exactly what we're praying for, right now.
- But they DIDN'T SEE them, until Jesus forced them to.
- On one hand I'm encouraged to know that God can actually be doing something profound and us not even realize it.
- But on the other hand, I'm like, "Lord, I really want to recognize what you're doing, so that I can participate in it."
- **Synopsis of the John 4 story...**

Prayer

- Jesus is leaving Judea to go to Galilee...
- **[Jesus] needed to go through Samaria. (John 4:4)**



- The reason John makes note of this, is because this was NOT the route that any other Jew (including the disciples) would have taken from Judea to Galilee.
- They would have either gone to the west or the east (the blue) AROUND Samaria, but THROUGH it.
- But the love of God doesn't not have racial, geographical, socio-economic borders. (**Romans 2:11** — There is no preference of prejudice with God.)
- Jesus needs to go through Samaria, because there is a human being there (Samaritan or not) that Jesus needs to meet with.
- **I love that Jesus doesn't acknowledge how big of a deal this is for the disciples.**
- **BUT JOHN makes sure to mention it: because JOHN recognized that not only was this a big SOCIAL deal. This was a SPIRITUALLY, big deal.**
- **This was the beginning of the a REVIVAL MOMENT for the disciples (**Acts 10**).**
- **THIS IS MOMENT FOR THESE CHURCH PEOPLE —**
- This isn't just about the Samaritan woman. It's about Jesus breaking religious traditions in the disciples, and giving them a bigger perspective His Kingdom, His heart, and His plan for their lives and mission.
- **Revival Moment #1**
- Jesus is giving His people a new, expanded, perspective of His Kingdom, His heart, and His mission.
- So they're walking through Samaria, and the disciples go off into town to get some food.
- Jesus is by himself, gets tired, sits down at a well.
- 'When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)' (**John 4:7-9**)
- This woman is by herself.
- Second of all, John makes sure that we know (**vs. 6**) that it was 12 noon.
- Women were almost always the ones who got water for their families, but they always did it TOGETHER, and they always did in IN THE MORNING, before the desert sun was out.
- **Palm Springs Heat...**
- NOON is NOT the time when you walk to the well, fill up a huge jug of water and then carry it back to town, which is why the women would go in the morning, and why it so important that John makes note of what **time of day** it was.
- **This woman was at the well at a time when she could be sure there were no other women there.**

- Later in v. 18 we get a clue as to WHY, when Jesus exposes the fact that she had been married five times, and was now living with a man who wasn't her husband.
 - To be divorced in the first century...
- It's no surprise that she had a habit of going to the well, at noon, when she could be sure there would be no one else around.
- As for her shock that Jesus talking to her:
 - **Jews didn't talk to Samaritans.**
 - **Men didn't talk to women**
 - **And rabbis (teachers) didn't talk to people** with this kind of reputation and story.
- You can imagine her surprise, when a Jesus — Jewish, Rabbi, man looks her in the face, and speaks to her like a valuable, human being.
- And this is why Jesus **needed to go through Samaria**, and be at THIS well, at THIS time.
- He is there to give this woman, not earthly water, but eternal living water. He's there to bring her salvation.
- **Revival Moment #2:**
- Jesus is meeting an individual right where she is at, and bringing her eternal and abundant life.
- This IS REVIVAL.
- So Jesus asks her for a drink, and she's like "Why are you even talking to me and asking ME for a drink?"
- **'Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water... (John 4:10)**
- (We're going come to back to this)
- *"What are you talking about, you want to give me water, but you don't even have a bucket"*
- *"The kind of water I have you don't need a bucket for... this is eternal water"*
- *And she's like, "What?? This water sounds amazing. Give me that water!"*
- *Then Jesus tells her to go and get her husband...*
- *She shifts the attention from herself and her past and her embarrassment, and changes the subject and begins to debate with Jesus about **how and where people ought to worship God** (Can't we just do it from home? No, you gotta go to the church building.)*
- *"Well the Messiah is coming, and when he comes, I guess He'll answer all of these questions we have..."*
- **'Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." (John 4:26)**
- Jesus reveals Himself.

- And when Jesus reveals Himself is when everything shifts. She drops her bucket, goes home tells everyone about Jesus...
 - **“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony” (John 4:39)**
 - Her community comes to faith in Jesus. Another HUGE revival moment.
 - But this one was preceded by these other two moments, which is where we’re focusing today.
- 1. The moment in the disciples.**
- These are like the regular church goers.
 - **Jesus was tearing down ideas and ideals that were contrary to His Kingdom and His heart.**
 - This was HUGE REVIVAL MOMENT for them, that would begin to change everything.
 - **But they were missing it. They couldn’t see it.**
 - **“Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.**” (John 4:35)**
 - **You only tell people to open their eyes WHO CAN’T SEE or who AREN’T LOOKING.**
 - The disciples couldn’t, or didn’t want to, see what was happening, even though it was right in front of them, and even though it was JESUS doing it.
 - **Revival wasn’t out there in in comfort, Galilee, it was right in front of them in the discomfort of Samaria.**
 - And Jesus is like: “I know this doesn’t look like what you thought it would, but open your eyes, REVIVAL IS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, IN THIS MOMENT.”
 - **What if Jesus is saying the same thing to us, at this moment in History?**
 - **YOU KNOW what the next revival’s gonna look like? NO. You don’t. And neither do I.**
 - But you can PROBABLY BET, that’s it’s not gonna be what we expected.
 - **In the 1960s God brought the last great revival to the US, a huge part of that, was God saving hippies...**
 - **REVIVAL RARELY LOOKS how you expect it to.**
 - **No one expected revival look like hippies getting saved, but it did.**
 - **The disciples didn’t expect revival to look like Samaria getting saved, but it did.**
 - **Jesus brings the His disciples, in John 4, to Samaria (of all places) to bring a revival moment in their lives, by way of dismantling their preconceived ideas and prejudices about God and others (not just with race, but with the whole idea of what God was like, and what He was doing)**

- **And Jesus doesn't apologize for it, or even acknowledge that it's going to be TOTALLY uncomfortable and maybe even scary, for the disciples, when He goes through Samaria.**
- **He DOES NOT coddle, or even seem to care about, their perceived need to be comfortable.**
- **Because:**
 - The life of a Christian, is not about comfortability. Ultimately, it is about us being conformed into the image of Christ, which often comes at the EXPENSE of comfort, not because of it.
- Zavala family...
- **It is gonna be uncomfortable? Yeah, but God calls us to step out, in faith, often into places that are unexpected and uncomfortable.**
 - God is calling some of you...
 - I'm not gonna tell you that's it's going to be fun, but it will be fruitful.
- There's a revival moment there, that God is inviting you into.
- And I think this is that's part of what He is doing in the Church, at this moment in History.
- He is bringing us to our own uncomfortable places, to dismantle preconceived ideas and prejudices.
- Don't let your own fear, comfort, or a small view of God, blind you to what's happening.

2. The moment with the Woman:

- Same thing: God is there to bring revival to her life, and she TOTALLY MISSES IT.
- **'Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, then you would have asked him and he would have given you living water..." (John 4:10)**
- **"If you KNEW."** Greek word "i'-do" — it literally means to "properly recognize what is already a reality."
- He's saying: "If you could recognize what is **already** is happening right now, in this moment, then we would be having a totally different type of conversation. The things you're talking would not even matter, anymore."
- **But she couldn't see.**
- **I would like to propose, that many of us, today, are having a hard time seeing.**
- God is moving right in front of our eyes, but just we're not seeing it for what it is.
- The implication here: that sometimes God can be doing a profound work right in front of us, and we just don't have eyes to see it yet.

- PRAY FOR JESUS TO REVEAL HIMSELF
- PRAY FOR US TO RECOGNIZE WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING.
- Prayer from **Eph. 1:17-18** God would give us your Holy Spirit who reveals things to us in order to grow in our knowledge of You, and open the eyes of our understanding, so that might SEE.