

Gospel...Who?

Whoever believes will be saved and changed...

Sunday, June 5, 2016

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. **There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him.** But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God

I would like to talk about 3 ladies who put their trust in God and because of their faith they were changed.

1. The Samaritan Woman

John 4:4-29

⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.^[a] She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." ¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?" ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well?

How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" ¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." ¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." ¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. ¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,^[b] where our ancestors worshiped?" ²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"^[c] ²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸ The

woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

She believed in Jesus that day. And not only did she believe, but many others also believed because she shared what she had experienced!!

This woman had an encounter with Jesus, and because of it she was changed!
Who is the Gospel for? Anyone who will believe!

The Samaritan woman had a past and wasn't living right in her present, BUT God. Jesus didn't ask her to go get married to the man she was living with before she gave her life to Jesus. Jesus didn't tell her to repent of her sins, Jesus said If you ask...

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If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.

We only need to ask! The gospel is for whoever asks and believes!!

2. Mary Jesus' Mother

Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail." ³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Mary said yes to God!

Mary gave everything for the gospel. She gave her reputation, her body, her future. She said yes to the gospel.

Dan said last week... "The Gospel is the only thing in the world worth giving everything for!" and Mary did just that!

3. Rahab the Harlot

Joshua 2:1-21 Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove.^[a] He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night.² But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land."³ So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land."⁴ Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from."⁵ They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them."⁶ (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.)⁷ So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.⁸ Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them.⁹ "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror."¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea^[b] when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed.^[c]¹¹ No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.¹² "Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that¹³ when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families."¹⁴ "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the LORD gives us the land."¹⁵ Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.¹⁶ "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way."¹⁷ Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions.¹⁸ When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house.¹⁹ If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death.²⁰ If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way."²¹ "I accept your terms," she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.

Rahab was a prostitute and yet God used her. Because of her faith God honored her. Again just like the Samaritan woman, God did not ask her to repent or stop her ways before accepting her. She did the right thing and he honored her.

James 2:25-26

Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without a spirit, so also faith is dead without good deeds.

Rahab was changed because of her actions, because she trusted God and put her faith into action, just like Mary and the Samaritan woman!

The Gospel is even for prostitutes, it truly is for everyone!

How easy it would have been for the two spies to look over Rahab, How often do we look over people in our everyday life? Do we judge the homeless beggar, because they may just use my money for drugs. Do we judge the young girl who is pregnant and not married? Do we judge the person sitting next to us, because they may not do it the way we do.

“Our lack of compassion for the “Who”, robs us of our “Where”!

Let us not forget that we are called to love where we are and whoever is before us. We do not get to pick and choose!

God is all about redemption...

Matthew 1:5, Salmon was the father of Boaz, his mother was Rahab. Rahab is in the genealogy of Christ!

I love how God works, He took a prostitute and forgave her, then made her apart of the line of the one who would forgive the sins of the world!!

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

²⁶⁻³¹ Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of “the brightest and the best” among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these “nobodies” to expose the hollow pretensions of the “somebodies”? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, “If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God.”

Who is the Gospel for? EVERYONE!

PRAY...