

THIS REALLY IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

John 4:39-42

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The start of a New Year is an exciting time. It is a time to restart your life. To start over. It is a time to restart your marriage; restart your relationship with your kids; restart your health and fitness goals; restart your financial goals; restart your career goals; restart your educational goals. Most importantly, the New Year is a time to restart your spiritual life.
 - i. Now is the time to renew your commitment to daily Bible reading.
 - ii. Now is the time to renew your commitment to private prayer.
 - iii. Now is the time to renew your commitment to having a daily quiet time.
 - iv. Now is the time to renew your commitment to church attendance.
 - v. Now is the time to renew your commitment to Home Group.
 - vi. Now is the time to renew your commitment to obedience.
 - vii. Now is the time to renew your commitment to evangelism.
 - viii. Now is the time to renew your commitment to discipling your children in the home.
2. The best way to restart your spiritual life is to begin by focusing on Jesus. **Hebrews 12:1-2** “Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
3. The best way to revive your spiritual life is to focus on Jesus – His love, His sacrifice, His example, His teachings, His power, His plan.
4. Today we’re going to look at a small text that points out some big truths about Jesus.

II. TEXT

1. **John 4:39-42** 39 Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of what he said. 42 And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

III. EXPLANATION

1. This is the end of the story famously known as “the woman at the well.” Jesus struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman and revealed His identity to her – that He is the Messiah. She believed in Him, and she ran into town and invited everyone to come out and meet Jesus. Jesus stayed with them two days, and many believed in Him.

2. I want to focus on the testimony of the Samaritan people at the end of **verse 42** “...this really is the Savior of the world.” This little sentence is full of content. It highlights seven truths about Jesus.

IV. SEVEN BIG TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS

1. His mission.

- i. **verse 42** “...this really is the Savior of the world.”
- ii. The reason Jesus came to earth was to seek and save the lost. That must be our mission as well.
- iii. **Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- iv. **Luke 19:10** “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”
- v. Jesus did not come to heal the sick, or to help the poor, or to liberate the Jews from the Romans. He came to seek and save the lost.
- vi. Without Christ, people are dying and going to hell. Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins, and then to send out His followers to share the gospel with the world.
- vii. The mission of Jesus is still the mission of every Christian. We have all been sent into the world to seek and save the lost. To tell the world the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

2. His sacrifice.

- i. **verse 42** “...this really is the Savior of the world.”
- ii. Jesus came to earth to save us, but how did He do it? The Bible says that we are sinners, and the wages of sin is death – eternal separation from God in hell. But loves us in spite of our sin, and wants to save us. So He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. He died instead of us. He was our substitute on the cross.
- iii. **Isaiah 53:5-6** “But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.”
- iv. To save us Jesus had to endure the ultimate punishment -- crucifixion. What was crucifixion like? In the note on Matthew 27:31, the **MacArthur Study Bible** describes crucifixion: Crucifixion was a form of punishment that had been passed down from the Persians, Phoenicians, and Carthaginians. Roman crucifixion was a lingering doom -- by design. Roman executioners had perfected the art of slow torture while keeping the victim alive. Some victims even lingered until they were eaten alive by birds of prey or wild beasts. Most hung on a cross for days before dying of exhaustion, dehydration, traumatic fever, or -- most likely -- suffocation. When the legs would no longer support the weight of the body, the diaphragm was constricted in a way that made breathing impossible. That is why breaking the legs would hasten death, but this was unnecessary in Jesus' case. The hands were usually nailed through the wrists, and the feet through the instep

or the Achilles tendon (sometimes using one nail for both feet). None of these wounds would be fatal, but their pain would become unbearable as the hours dragged on. The most notable feature of crucifixion was the stigma of disgrace that was attached to it. One indignity was the humiliation of carrying one's own cross, which might weight as much as 200 pounds. Normally a quaternion, four soldiers, would escort the prisoner through the crowds to the place of crucifixion. A placard bearing the indictment would be hung around the person's neck."

3. His greatness.

- i. **verse 42** "...this really is the Savior of the world."
- ii. Christ's death paid for the sins of the entire world!
- iii. **1 John 2:2** "He himself is the atoning sacrifice, for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world."
- iv. I could not die for your sins, because I am a sinner. I need to be punished for my own sins. But Jesus is perfect, so He could die vicariously – in place of someone else. But not only is Jesus perfect and able to die for others, He is God and able to die for all the people in the world throughout all of human history.
- v. We marvel at the stories of Christ's miracles: He calmed the storm; He walked on water; He healed the blind, deaf, mute, lame, and leprous; He fed the multitudes with just a few pieces of food. But none of those miracles compare to the miracle of His substitutionary atonement. Christ died once for all mankind.
- vi. **1 Peter 3:18** "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God."

4. His love.

- i. **verse 42** "...this really is the Savior of the world."
- ii. He loves the entire world -- every single person. Jew and Gentile. Religious and irreligious. Christian and non-Christian. Muslims and atheists. Men and women. Black and white. Rich and poor. Republicans and Democrats. He loves the disabled. He loves the homeless. He loves the incarcerated.
- iii. In this story Jesus did the unthinkable. He spoke with a Samaritan. The Jews hated Samaritans. He spoke with a woman. Rabbis did not speak to women in public. And He spoke with a notorious sinner – a serial adulteress. This story reveals Christ's love for all human beings, no matter who you are or what you've done. He loves you.
- iv. Why did the Jews and the Samaritans hate each other so much? After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was split into two kingdoms. The ten tribes in the north were called the nation of Israel, and the capital was Samaria. The two tribes in the south – Judah and Benjamin – were called the nation of Judah, and the capital was Jerusalem. From the very beginning the northern kingdom rebelled against God, and in 722 B.C. God sent the Assyrian army to destroy their cities and take the people away into captivity. The Assyrians then took foreigners and settled them in the land of

Israel. Because these new foreigners did not worship God, the Lord punished them by sending lions to kill them. So, the people complained to the king of Assyria that they didn't know how to worship the local God. The King of Assyria went one of the captive priests to teach them to worship Yahweh. From then on, the Samaritans, as they were called, worshiped Yahweh along with their other false gods. It is possible that a few Israelites were left behind during the captivity, and that they intermarried with the foreigners. In time, the Samaritans did away with their idolatry and only worshipped Yahweh, and they claimed to be the true descendants of Israel, and the keepers of the Torah. They built their own temple to Yahweh on Mount Gerizim, and claimed that the Jerusalem temple and priesthood were illegitimate. They only followed the Torah, and rejected the rest of the Old Testament. Over time these differences and disagreements bred hatred. Therefore, devout Jews would travel twice as far to get from Galilee to Judea in order to avoid going through Samaria.

- v. But in this story, Jesus not only went through Samaria, but he spent time with the Samaritans. He revealed Himself to the Samaritans. He stayed two days with them. All of this was to show that Jesus loves everyone.
- vi. And of course His love was best demonstrated by His death on the cross. **Galatians 2:20** "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

5. His truthfulness.

- i. **verse 42** "...this really is the Savior of the world."
- ii. He "really" is the Savior.
- iii. Why should we believe in Jesus? Is believing in Jesus the same as believing in Santa Claus, or the Tooth Fairy?
- iv. No credible historian denies the existence of Jesus as a real historical figure. The only question is whether Jesus is the Son of God. Why should we believe that? The best reason is because of His resurrection. Jesus claimed that He would rise from the grave, and He did it. He was seen by hundreds of eyewitnesses, and these eyewitnesses were willing to give their lives for this claim. No one dies for something they know is lie.

6. His exclusivity.

- i. **verse 42** "...this really is the Savior of the world."
- ii. He is "the" Savior of the world. The only Savior. There is no other.
- iii. The Bible is very clear that Jesus is the only way to God; the only way to salvation the only way to eternal life.
- iv. **John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- v. **Acts 4:12** "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."
- vi. It's hard to be an exclusivist. To believe there is only one way. The rest of the world will say that you are mean; cruel; divisive.

- vii. The Roman Catholics caved into the pressure against exclusivity. Before Vatican II in the 1960s, the Roman Catholic Church was very exclusive. The only people who could go to heaven were Roman Catholics in good standing. But at Vatican II the RCC changed its theology to be inclusive. It said that you can go to heaven without faith in Christ, as long as you follow the light that is available to you.
- viii. Don't be ashamed of the exclusivity of Jesus Christ. Christians are exclusivists. We believe there is only one God; only one Book; only one people – the church of Jesus Christ; only one Savior; and only one way to heaven – faith in Jesus Christ.
- ix. **Matthew 7:14** "How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it."
- x. Can you go to heaven if you don't believe in Jesus? No.
- xi. Even if you are a really good person? No one can go to heaven without Christ.
- xii. In the letter of Galatians, Paul wrote that salvation was through faith, not works.
 - 1. **Galatians 1:21** "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing."
 - 2. Everyone who believes that there are multiple paths to God ultimately believes that we are saved by good works. It doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you are good person.
 - 3. But if we can be saved by good works, then Christ died for nothing.
- xiii. **A.W. Tozer** "Christ is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is he the best of several ways; he is the only way."

7. His inclusivity.

- i. **verse 42** "...this really is the Savior of the world."
- ii. He offers salvation to everyone in the world.
- iii. **John 3:16** "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."
- iv. How can a person get in on eternal life? It is as simple as ABC.
 - 1. A – Admit that you are a sinner in need of a savior (Rm 3:23).
 - 2. B – Believe that Jesus is the Savior who died in your place for your sins (John 3:16).
 - 3. C – Call on Jesus to be your Lord and Savior (2 Cor 5:15).

V. CONCLUSION

- 1. **Anonymous** "All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life."
- 2. The new year is a great time to restart your relationship with God. And the best way to do that is to focus on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
- 3. How do you need to restart your spiritual life today?

