

Study Guide

Wednesday, 10th March 2021

The Courage to Look Within

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Jesus calls us to meet with Him, to have one-on-one conversations with Him. We read in the Bible that these one-on-one conversations were very personal and left many looking into their hearts, deliberating about their lives, the choices they made and the condition of their spirituality.

Jesus invited searching questions and also asked a few of his own: "Why do you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31). "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). "Why do you call me good?" (Mark 10:18). "What is it you want?" (Matthew 20:21). "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17). He listened carefully, probed his questioners' assumptions and extended grace to all.

He calls us today in the same way, to come into His presence, to come before Him to engage with Him through His Word, through worship and through conversations.

We will examine 3 conversations that Jesus had with different individuals who came from different backgrounds, who had different concerns, who were asked to have the courage to look within and make a choice.

The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-22

As Jesus was starting out on His way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to Him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and

mother." "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," He told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

The Person

A man runs to Jesus and bows before Him, he is young, rich, and powerful, the world today would call him a high achiever. Luke identifies him as "a certain ruler" (Luke 18:18), suggesting that he was the chief of the synagogue or a respected member of the Sanhedrin.

The Conversation

He asks Jesus the timeless question, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" He is asking the right questions but his beliefs are wrong, he assumes that goodness can be achieved. When he calls Jesus good he is praising His achievements rather than His character and Jesus refutes this. "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."

The Revelation

Jesus speaks the word of truth in love:

"Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.

The Response

1. What did the words spoken by Jesus mean to the rich young ruler?
2. What stood in his way?
3. How does this apply to us?

At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. He made his choice.

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

John 4:1-26, 39-45

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that He was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself didn't baptize them—His disciples did). So He left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually He came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give Me a drink." He was alone at the time because His disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are You asking me for a drink?" 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." "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? 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?" Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 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." "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." "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—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!" "Sir," the woman said, "You must be a prophet. 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, where our ancestors worshiped?" 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. You Samaritans know very little about the One you worship, while we Jews know all about Him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 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. For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!" Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see Him, they begged Him to stay in their village. So He stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear His message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world." At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. He Himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. Yet the Galileans welcomed Him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything He did there.

The Person

The Samaritan woman comes to the well at noon; she chooses to come at an unusual hour. The usual time where the women of the village would come would be in the evening, they would not only come to draw water but also to exchange small talk and learn the latest village news. However this woman chose to avoid all of this: was she avoiding the pain and embarrassment of being avoided and ostracized, was she the object of the village gossip?

The Conversation

Jesus who knows all deliberately comes to meet her, and makes a request “please give me a drink” and the dialogue begins between Jesus and the woman. She is taken back by the fact a Jewish man is speaking to her, Jesus

tells her if only you know who I am, and the gift of God has for you, you will ask for this “living water,” but she does not understand.

The Revelation

Everything that has taken place between Jesus and this woman has been in preparation for this moment when he says to her “go, call your husband” (vs. 16-19). Jesus lays bare the woman’s deepest self: her brokenness, her fear, and the things hidden deep inside of her. She answers “I have no husband”, *"You're right! You don't have a husband— 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!"*

Jesus does commend her for telling the truth but he brings the whole story to the surface: the actual situation (which she had omitted).

Jesus answers her question about which location is the right place of worship: He tells her it’s not about the place Jerusalem or Gerizim but it’s about being rightly related to the One we worship. Knowing *who* it is we worship is of utmost importance. She is still not convinced with what Jesus says because she then states that *"I know the Messiah is coming—the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us."* Then Jesus told her, *"I AM the Messiah!"*

The Response

1. What did the words spoken by Jesus mean to the Samaritan woman?
2. What stood in her way?
3. How does this apply to us?

The woman believed and she went and told the other villagers (her response is very different from when she came to the well at an unusual hour avoiding the other women); she was boldly proclaiming Christ the Messiah. Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see Him, they begged Him to stay in their village. So He stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear His message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you

told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world."

Jesus and Peter

John 21:15-17

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "You know I love You." "Then feed My lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "You know I love You." "Then take care of My sheep," Jesus said. A third time He asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Then feed My sheep."

The Person

Peter had denied Jesus three times,

Luke 22: 60-61- And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

The Conversation

Jesus draws Peter aside to deal with him personally. He calls him by his full name Peter son of John: this is a serious encounter, an issue of the heart.

"Do you love Me more than these?" This is the most important question. Does Peter love Jesus unselfishly and unconditionally more than he cares for fishing with all of its trappings, or anything else? "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You" John 21:15. Twice more Jesus asks Peter the question, "Do you love me?" Each time there is a positive answer.

The Revelation

The restoration and the calling upon Peter's life: Peter the shepherd.

"Then feed My lambs." (John 21:15)

"Then take care of My sheep." (John 21:16)

"Then feed My sheep. (John 21:17)

The Response

1. What did the words spoken by Jesus mean to Peter?
2. What stood in his way?
3. How does this apply to us?

Finally Peter responds, *"Lord, You know all things."* *"You know that I love you."*

Conclusion

In all the conversations – Jesus responds, probes and questions differently: to one he says leave your wealth and follow me, to the woman He offers living waters and worship and to Peter restoration and his calling.

Every person is unique and every person who comes to Christ is met in different ways, he knows each ones needs, the struggle we face, and the sin we are trapped in and he speaks truth in love.

Jesus will always ask us these questions:

- To lay down and to let go: the things we so firmly grip.
- To be clear who Jesus is: to know him intimately.
- Do we love Him? Enough to trust Him, to believe that He has the best planned for us.

He does the same today, if only we would come to Him, to His Word and into His presence in worship. He would give us the courage to look within and respond to His Word, to be set free and to live an abundant life.

Prayer Items

Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 25:8-9

*Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ **He leads the humble** in what is right, and **teaches the humble** his way.*

Church

1. Restarting physical services.
2. To be steadfast in our pursuit of God's call over our lives.
3. God will continue to shape our lives according to His Word.
4. A house of prayer.
5. Be effective witnesses wherever God has placed us.
6. Unsaved family members.
7. We may reach out to the lost and see many come to Christ.
8. We may grow in love and unity in Christ.
9. Ministries: Life Explorers, Redeeming Roses, Destiny Kids & Teens, Sunday School, Lifeline, Life Seeds, Worship Team, Pulpit Ministry & Church Leadership.

Healing

1. Si Yun & Jayden
2. Deirdre (broke her wrist) pray for complete healing.

Malaysia

1. God will deliver us from this pandemic.
2. Covid-19 – healing and recovery (physical, mental and economically).
3. Wisdom as the government begins the vaccination plans.
4. Compassion: people in power and with resources will show compassion and love towards those who are in need.
5. Grace and protection for school children and teachers as they begin classes.
6. Racial reconciliation.
7. Justice and Mercy
 - The poor, oppressed, foreigners, widows and orphans.
 - Pray against the works of greed and corruption.
8. Leadership and good governance.
9. The Church will be God's instrument for unity, integrity and racial harmony.