

SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 Scripture: John 4:27-30

TITLE: Invitation of a Lifetime

Whenever a ministry peer or friend comes to town, I begin to think about who I should invite to see him or her. Having someone of authority is a special occasion and requires an invite to "come and see." Each day, we have the opportunity to invite people around us to come and see Jesus, but do we? I know I do not. How about you?

But there was a woman who was so overwhelmed by Jesus and His message that she immediately invited the town to come and see.

Who was this woman? What was the town's response? Let's turn back to the Book of John in John 4:27-30.

Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Jesus has been talking with a Samaritan woman who had a reputation of being a sinner. Sexual sin is nothing new but even in today's culture still a hot topic of gossip and judgment. Well, Jesus knows her story but doesn't care. He doesn't care about the societal norms and unhelpful traditions of speaking to a woman and a sinful one at that.

She recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah – the promised Savior she has heard about. And as soon as it's clear, the disciples show up. They don't say a word. They are just shocked by Jesus' conversation in plain sight. This seems so silly to us today, but it was viewed as either foolish or sinful for a Jew to talk to a woman in public. But Jesus doesn't care. She is one of the people He came to seek and save.

She is so overwhelmed with the good news that Jesus brought she takes off for town and goes to tell the people of the town "come and see" Jesus. She doesn't get ready. She doesn't secure the water in her hands. She heads out immediately.

Remember, these people of the town knew who she was and the sin she bore. Townspeople have a way of spreading news faster than twitter ever could. She doesn't care what they think of her or her lifestyle. She has met the Messiah and wants others to do the same.

But notice she doesn't yell out "the Messiah is here. The Messiah is here. Come and see." Instead, she's smart with her tactic. She provides an invite to a person who knew her and asks the people, "Could this be the Christ?" Her humility in inviting the people worked. They immediately are intrigued and go to meet Jesus.

She met Jesus. She believed in Him. She headed out without hesitation. And so she invited others to meet Him too. A true invitation of a lifetime.

So here's my challenge for you today: invite someone to meet Jesus. The world is drowning in sin with no hope of rescue except for Jesus Christ. Someone invited you to meet Jesus. Now you can do the same. Share a verse in a text such as John 3:16-17 or John 14:6. Share a video from this series in an e-mail or social. Or could you go have a coffee or meal with someone who should meet Jesus through you.

The Samaritan woman was transformed by Jesus and she had to invite others for the same experience.

When we invite others to meet Jesus, we will win the day.