

3. Our motivation for "spiritual sowing" is a loving civility.

27. "Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman."
John 4:27

Why were they surprised?

This was a patriarchal society in which men did not usually speak to women in public. Why? Because it was beneath them.

This was also a racist society in which Jews saw Samaritans as half-breeds.

Thirdly, this was a moralistic society, and here's a rabbi talking to a woman who has had five husbands and is living with a man and probably came at midday to draw water and not in the morning with the other women because she was probably something of a social outcast.

She was on the wrong side of every fence the world puts up, and yet, Jesus engages her.

There are two motivations for asking people to change their beliefs.

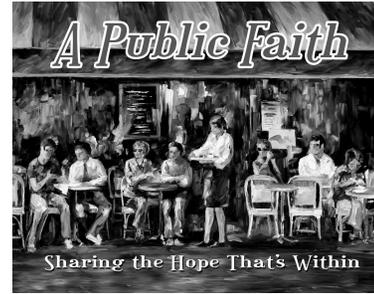
One is pride. "I'm right and you're wrong."

The other is love. "I want you to have what I have."

Jesus Christ has love for her.

That gift of love changed her identity, and that change emboldened her to share with her village, in transparency she pointed them towards Jesus. Many in the village were saved.

"We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."
John 4:42



Dan Wilvers Part 1 Sierra Community Church
June 19th, 2016
Happy Father's Day!

Why a Public Faith?

John 4:27-42

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" ³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

The Word of the Lord

1. The call to point people to Christ (spiritual sowing)

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." 33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" 34 **"My food,"** said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. John 4:31-35

"My food," What does that mean?

That being public with your faith, pointing people to eternal life through Jesus Christ, it's not optional, this is the meat and drink of life.

This is the single most important task in life is leading people to salvation.

2. How do we "sow" the Good News of Christ?

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:28-30

vs. 29 is the essence of what it means to be public with your faith. The two essentials of being public are:

A. Simple transparency - "who told me everything I ever did." She does not have a booklet on the four spiritual laws. There's not much theological content here. She is just saying, "Here's what happened to me." She is simply being transparent about what's going on inside.

B. Pointing to Jesus himself. "Come, see a man"

What did she know about Jesus?

She says he's the Messiah or he might be the Messiah. She doesn't know he's going to die for her. She doesn't know he's going to rise from the dead. She really doesn't know too much theology here. But here's what she discovered:

9 ... How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 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 4:9,10

She saw the gift.