

“Someone with Faith doesn’t Pretend to have It All Together”

John 4:1-30

10/19/25

Someone with faith doesn’t pretend to have it all together. Thursday morning on my day off Hope handed me a coupon to go get my haircut. At 9AM I was greeted by a chipper 17-year-old young lady ready to cut my hair. She asked me many questions and once there was a pause, I asked, as I often do, “How is your soul?” “Great. I recently returned from Guatemala on a church mission trip, and I helped Sunday Schools, and I made this bracelet. And I am currently reading about the Samaritan Woman at the well. Isn’t it just amazing that one woman’s faith had such an impact on one town! And I’m sure she didn’t have it all together. She just met Jesus! But she shared His good news!”

Someone with faith doesn’t pretend to have it all together. The woman from Samaria probably didn’t have all together. She comes to the well at noon, probably because she is shunned from the other women for something she has done. And it’s this woman who arguably becomes the first Christian preacher. And I asked my 17-year-old hairstylist, “Have you ever thought about being a preacher?” **Faith that is tentative, full of questions, and not yet mature can bear witness and do so effectively.**

People are thirsty for spirituality right now. That’s the reason I asked this young woman, “How is your soul?” If I hadn’t, would we have had a Christian conversation, a spiritual conversation? Jesus is direct with the woman at the well and curious about her. This maybe the most helpful lesson for us to learn in the current climate we are living. Move people from a category to a conversation. Don’t prejudge. Even if they tell you their life story and you’re in disagreement, keep asking questions. Stay curious. Let folks know that you are praying for them. That may open to a spiritual conversation. Tell folks about all the mission work that happens at NPC that may lead to a spiritual conversation. Ask the question, “How is your soul?” People are thirsty right now and you don’t have to pretend to have it all together to invite people to Jesus.

Let’s see how the story ends in John 4:31-42.

You don’t have to pretend to have it all together to be Christian. You don’t have to pretend to have it all together to lead people to Jesus. Your task is to ask questions and stay curious. Through intentional conversation with folks, we can move people from categories to conversations. What I mean by that is the male disciples harbor deep seated prejudice for Samaritans in general and in this case a woman in particular. They see categories. We fall into this trap too. Jesus encourages us to engage in conversation.

Someone with faith doesn’t pretend to have it all together. This woman runs back into town fully aware that the townsfolk probably know her past, but she shares her faith anyways. **Faith has powerful results when it is shared with others, but faith based on the witness of others must move on to first-hand experience with Jesus.** Even in the woman’s spreading of her experience with Jesus, she stays curious, “Come and see a person who told me everything I

have ever done!” She invites people to Christ. Invite folks here. Invite folks to our community. And she invites through questions, “He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” How enriching for our souls and how nourishing is it for our faith when we hear the testimony of others what God is doing in their lives. It strengthens my faith to hear about your faith. Share your witness with each other. It strengthens my faith to see your presence in worship. Your presence strengthens the faith of others. The Samaritan Woman demonstrates that **one of the key tasks of discipleship is to witness to Jesus**. Maybe she leaves the bucket at the well, because she is now full of living water ready to share it. She is the new bucket full of living water!

No matter who you are, no matter what you have done Jesus comes for you. No matter if you are rich or poor, male or female, young or old, no matter your status the revelation of God as Jesus Christ is for you! No one is outside the bounds of God’s love. As I preached last week, it’s not about perfection but going in the direction of Jesus. Practicing good habits of prayer and worship equip us to serve as Jesus serves. Once we are in the habits of prayer and worship, we will see Jesus calls us to do difficult things. It seems Jesus comes to Samaria specifically for her. Most Jews of the time would have walked around Samaria to go from Judea to Galilee due to long standing prejudice and a long history of hostility between Samaritans and Jews. Samaritans were considered heretics, untouchable and enemies, but Jesus had to go through Samaria the text tells us. Jesus had to go to the cross for our sins. We will have to do difficult things to serve as Jesus serves. But it’s to save souls! It’s to liberate!

We don’t know why this woman had 5 husbands, but we shouldn’t judge before we know the context of her life. For all we know, she may have been following the Levirate law of marry brother after brother because each has tragically died. Maybe she is living with this new man for financial reasons? Jesus comes to save her soul and possibly to liberate her from this system.

Friends, Jesus calls us to do difficult things. We often want to circumvent our problems, walk around the Samaria of that which we fear. But Jesus leads us into difficult things. Jesus leads us to move people from categories to conversations. The Samaritan woman shows us we don’t have to pretend to have it all together to have faith. She shows us one of the key tasks of discipleship is to witness to Jesus.

Love,
Pastor Curtis