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| John 4:1-15 + 28-30 + 37-38  | The Way to Do It!! | Pinelands – 9am – 29/09/2024Thornton – 10:30am – 29/09/2024 |

Someone once told me that an…

Authentic Follower of Jesus needs to do 3 things…

***Leave***  - on going process…

 We always need to leave something in

 Order to follow Jesus.

***Learn***  - on going practice…

 We always need to train ourselves to

 Keep following Jesus.

***Live*** - on going skill

We always need to be real with Jesus

With that as a backdrop I would like share some thoughts coming out

Of our reading for today.

**Read… John 4: 1-15 + 28-30 + 37-38**

**We live in a world where…**

Success / Achievement points towards **Significance…**

 - Number of contracts, Profit made,

 - Size of factory, Position in industry.

In the World we live in…

All those things have their place…

 They are **NB** in many ways.

**Ministers and Churches** are not exempt from this struggle…

 Ministers and people comparing churches…

 ***Numbers… Sizes… Budgets… Location…***

 *(What is the size of your church?*

*200, 500, 1000 members…*

 *One minister said… 40m x 15m)*

**Success / Achievement** points towards **Significance…**

 - Education, *(no of degrees, If you have a degree)* - Salary Package,

 - Where you live, *(above or below the Canal,*

*Which side of Forest Drive)*

- Processions, *(House / Cars / Size of…)*

**BUT…** ***That is not the Jesus way***

**In the Kingdom of God…**

**Success / Achievement** does not…

translate into or point towards Significance…

Jesus said… ***‘We live in the world but…***

***We are not part of the world’***

**What does that mean for the Follower of Jesus?**

It means we need to **LEAVE** the ways of the world…

 Even though we live in the world…

 **We choose to…** View life differently

 Do and Live life differently

 **Success** **does not** determine Significance…

 Numbers and Size – are not as important…

as we make them out to be.

 Have **NO Eternal significance.**

Often in the **Gospels…**

 As the crowds grow bigger…

 As more people follow Jesus…

 He **LEAVES** for another area.

Why did Jesus **‘LEAVE’** Judaea?

 - other people needed the Gospel

 - Jerusalem was calling

Interesting observation of our text today…

**John 4:1ff…**

 ***“The Pharisees heard that Jesus was winning and baptizing***

 ***more disciples than John.***

 ***So when Jesus heard what was being said,***

***he left Judea and went back to Galilee”***

Jesus was **NOT** going to get caught in comparing…

 ***Numbers…***

 *‘Who has more disciples? Who has a bigger following?’*

 ***Ministries…***

 *‘Which rabbi is better? Who is liked more?’*

***Churches…***

*‘Location, Size, Architecture, looks.’*

Jesus would have **NO part** of that…

 ***Instead…*** Jesus chooses to **LEAVE** that behind.

We often do that… Compare ***Numbers,*** ***Ministries*** and ***Churches***

to **Others** and to **Ourselves.**

**Others… *Preachers…***

like this one but not that one

 Come or will not come…

 Depending… who is preaching

 ***Churches…***

 Compare size…equate it to success

 Better sound system / Worship team / Organist

 Number of ministries

 Bank balances

**Ourselves…** We compare ***Ourselves to Others…***

 I could never… because they do it so well.

*lead a bible study,*

*be a door steward / steward*

*do Data or sound-desk*

 We **‘think’** we are not good enough…

 ***Compared to others.***

**All Jesus expects of you IS…**

To touch each person with **HIS** **LOVE.**

**Note John 4:38…**

***“I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where***

 ***you did not work; others worked there, and you***

 ***profit from their work."***

Often in ministry…

 All you are called to do is… *‘Prepare the soil’*

 Other people get to see the ***‘product / produce’***

 Sometimes we get to see the result of Product…

 **BUT…** most often…

 It is just about…*‘Preparing the soil’*

If we could just **feed the Love of Jesus** into other people’s Lives…

**One…** Moment at a time,

Interaction at a time,

**One…** Word at a time,

Action at a time.

We are only going to be able to do that…

 If we leave some of the *‘Worldly Truths’* **Behind.**

Even the Samaritan Woman had to do that…

**John 4:28… *“Then the woman left her water jar,***

 ***and went back to the town”***

The **Water Jar** could be symbolic of a whole lot of things…

 Left her Chore behind… She came to draw water

 Left her old life / reputation behind…

New priorities

 What she Knew *(Comfort)* New beginnings

 View of her World… Kingdom Perspective

**What is it that you need to leave behind to Follow Jesus?**

**It is NOT about the…**

**SIZE of the Action…**

 It is just about **BEING** Jesus to others

**NUMBERS that are reached…**

 It is about one person at a time.

**HEAR THIS…** When we…

Compare ourselves to others,

Try to replicate what others are doing,

 **We LOOSE the AUTHENTICITY…**

 Of Jesus working through US

**Spiritual Success** is not based on… **Sizes** and **Numbers**

 It is based on… **Transformed lives.**

**In the Kingdom of God…**

 It is not about **WHAT** you do

 It is about… **WHO** you are

***AND…*** The **WAY** you do **What you do.**

**John 4:1-15 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

The Pharisees heard that Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John. (Actually, Jesus himself did not baptize anyone; only his disciples did.) So when Jesus heard what was being said, he left Judea and went back to Galilee; on his way there he had to go through Samaria.

In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink of water.” (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

The woman answered, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan—so how can you ask me for a drink?” (Jews will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.)

Jesus answered, “If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?”

Jesus answered, “Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water.”

**Verses 28-30**

Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, “Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?” So they left the town and went to Jesus.

**Verses 37-38**

For the saying is true, ‘Someone plants, someone else reaps.’ I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work.”