



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 64

Priorities

We are living in an extraordinary time right now in the world with this pandemic stretching far and wide. The implications, however, of this virus is that it has literally and single-handedly shut down everything we have held in high esteem to the extent that many do not know what to do with themselves. For the Christian, though this should be a time to prioritize our lives once again to make Jesus the most important thing in it. The world has idolized things like sports and entertainment and general consumerism to such a degree that they do not know how to even carry on in life without them. Even churches are feeling this as they try to figure out how to have church and are still trying to strive for some sort of normalcy. However, normalcy is not something we should be striving after. We should, however, allow for a time of reformation and refinement. We all should take this time that has been afforded to see what the Lord has to say about it and to reprioritize our lives around Him alone. For the church, the structure and tradition of holding church services, for one example, was never the ultimate intention for believers, rather it was always to truly and simply worship God in Spirit and in truth wherever that takes place (John 4:21-24). It was never about a building and a service but about a people and worship by those who have encountered Jesus in a very real way. The church is the people of God united by the blood of Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which makes us the building. We are not just another service that people come to and pick and choose what they want much like some sort of buffet or grocery store. We are blood-bought, redeemed sinners turned saints, who through the Holy Spirit carry the very mission of Jesus 24/7 to go and make disciples in our everyday life. We are the family of God who has made Jesus the number one priority in our lives and we gather from time to time to worship Jesus together in unity. But we live our entire lives in this manner not just a set day of the week. If we only lived this Christian walk on a set day of the week to a set tradition or structure we would be most miserable and even be found lacking in growth and maturity. Jesus spent most of His time with the disciples in many different places, never by the same structure or tradition week after week. It was an organic and natural life they were living together in unity with the Spirit of God and each other while collectively and

yet individually offering service to God. Now, as a disclaimer, I am not insinuating that we get rid of traditional church services, but that we reprioritize our hearts to realize who we truly are in light of who Christ truly is and that the sum of that is not defined by what we do on Sunday or whatever day we gather. We should furthermore live to serve, not to be served.

In this message we are going to talk about the woman at the well but to a specific point. The specific point is for one that Jesus showed up in her life and two her response to it. I say this because I think Jesus is showing up in our lives and has a powerful message for us right now, the question is, what is our response to it?

John 4:28-30 (ESV)

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.

Praise the Lord! We can definitely see where this woman's priorities were. I wonder though, how about our priorities? What I mean is would anyone on the outside looking in be able to tell by our life where our priorities lie? Or, do we personally see where our priorities lie? Now, I do not have an exact representation for each person what that should look like. I say this because each person has a different way of expressing this in the grand scheme of things. This is true because God has a specific gift set for each believer and also a specific story He has given to each to share. But to make it simple, we can know and understand that each has this God-given story of how the Lord has shown up in our lives much like how He showed up in this woman's life.

I would like to dig a little further into this in light of the context of this woman's situation. The time that Jesus met her was as the Scripture says the sixth hour (John 4:6). The sixth hour was noontime. The truth around this was that the Samaritan woman was likely getting water at this well in the heat of the day (noontime) because she was socially unacceptable to come to the well in the cool of the day (morning time) with the rest of the women who come out to draw water. The implication of this was two-fold in that she was likely a social outcast (probably due to the specific sin of adultery that she was living in) and also that since it was noontime in the heat of the day that she really needed this water.

I am encouraged by her response to this encounter with Jesus. Although she was no doubt less than perfect in her current state it is rather apparent that she was devoted. I say this because this woman after having this encounter with Jesus leaves her water jar which by the way was extremely essential especially because they didn't have faucets at home. At this point, she goes and tells

everyone about her experience with the Savior.

Let me just add that Jesus offered her the true and living water and I tell you from experience when you have tasted and seen this it will dramatically reprioritize your life rather quickly. Praise God!

I can definitely see that this Samaritan woman's life is a great example of a correct response to as well as a right adjustment to get her priorities in line with that of the Lord's.

So again, the question is, would anyone on the outside looking in be able to tell by our life where our priorities lie? And better yet, when the evaluation is done where would those priorities lie? Would they lie with the things of this world or the things of heaven? Jesus said, *'for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'*(Matthew 6:21) (ESV)

For this reason, let us all evaluate this for ourselves in the Presence of God and await His guidance alone and to readjust if needed our hearts with His. God, thank You! You are so amazing how You show up in our lives at just the right moment every time. If we were truly honest with ourselves we could examine our lives and see that You have been faithful when we needed You most. Help us to reflect on the amazing wonders of Your love toward us and then let that love define us and reprioritize our lives in conjunction with the one You have called us to. Let nothing, Lord, come in between us and You and Your plans for our lives to be a witness for you. In Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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