

Di121 Effective Communication

Lesson Di121-28 Purpose: Meeting Someone's Need

In the last lesson you learned that it is necessary to communicate with the purpose of sharing God's big plan with people. Each person needs to know how they fit into God's plan. He wants them to understand that they have a part in his plan too. This second lesson deals with communicating with the purpose of meeting the needs of the individuals we meet and talk to.

In life we experience many different emotions. God created us with emotions so we could understand his love for us. Before we knew Jesus, many of us felt lost and alone. That was our emotional response to being separated from God by sin. When we came to Christ, we felt the joy of sins forgiven and a new hope. This too was an emotional response. God wants us to remember the emotions of feeling lost and the joy of salvation. This is illustrated by the story of a woman who had lost all hope.

On his way from Judea to Galilee, Jesus chose to go through Samaria. Jews usually took a longer route that avoided Samaritan territory. He made his way to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near Jacob's well. Jesus, hot and tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. The reason Jesus went to Sychar was that the Spirit was leading him to a woman in need. He came on a mission.

Now people in those days normally drew water in the cool of the evening rather than in the heat of midday. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" The one who tells us this story is John, the apostle. He explains that Jews do not associate with Samaritans. A Jew would become 'unclean,' in religious terms, if he used a drinking vessel handled by a Samaritan. The Jews considered all Samaritans "unclean." Most Jewish rabbis did not speak to women either. But Jesus had come on a mission to meet her need.

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."

This woman was an outcast among her own people. She had been rejected by five husbands. The man she was living with was not her husband. She may have come to the well at noon to avoid the bad treatment of the other women. She might have felt abandoned by God, but that was not true. Jesus had come directly to her and was about to offer her an abundant joy-filled life. He did it by appealing to her using the terms "gift" and "living water." This word "gift" refers to the grace of God through Christ. He used the term "living water" to refer to eternal life. Jesus gave life and gave it fully. He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, KJV).

She thought the living water might be in the well, but she was wrong. “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” Jesus said his water, not the well water, would satisfy the real thirst in her life. He offered something that would meet both her emotional and spiritual needs. His purpose was to make eternal life in heaven so appealing, that she would never think of rejecting it.

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he” (John 4:4-15, 25-26). This Samaritan is the first person whom Jesus told directly that he was the Messiah.

The woman had placed her hope in a future Messiah who would deliver his people. She thought this was her only hope. Jesus made it clear that he was the Messiah, standing before her that day. She had to make her choice about eternity. In another part of the story not included here, Jesus spoke with her about her life, about what true worship was, and the importance of how one worships, not specific places of worship.

We know this woman put her faith in Jesus because she hurried to her village to tell everyone the truth about Jesus. As a result of her passion-filled testimony, many came out of the town and made their way to him. Many became believers because of her invitation and Jesus’ words. He spent two more days there and when he left many testified, “We know that this man really is the Savior of the world” (John 4:42).

This story is **important** because it shows the power of communicating with emotions and passion to the lost so they can feel the love of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will lead you to people, because God wants to meet their innermost needs and give them hope.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that in our communications we need to express the love of God for people through actions that touch not just their minds (knowledge) but also their emotion and other needs.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. What did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman that would meet her spiritual needs? [Pause]
A. If you said, “Jesus offered her living water which would meet her need for eternal life,” you answered correctly.

2. What words did Jesus use to describe the different kind of water he had for her? [Pause]
A. If you said that Jesus called it living water and the gift of God, you answered correctly.

3. What was the result when the villagers heard the emotion-filled testimony of the woman at the well about Jesus? [Pause]
A. If you said the result of the woman's testimony was that many of the villagers believed in Jesus as their Savior, you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to the story until you can tell it to someone who has not heard it before. Memorize John 10:10: "I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."

Discuss with a group of your Christian friends what it means to be led by the Spirit to speak to someone in need. Are there women or children, disabled people, beggars, or others in your town who really need someone to care about them? Begin to pray about who God wants you to speak to—someone you don't ordinarily talk to. What is their greatest need? You have the answer—it is Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit for boldness and also for the opportunity to speak to that person and pray for him or her. Share with them the Jesus' words from John 10:10. This is Christ's example for us. This is the way he communicated. Then gather with the same group of Christian friends in a week and share what God has done through each of you.