



Offering Jesus: 4. Offering our Story John 4:28-30,39-42

Bible Passage

Then the woman left her water jar, and went into the city and began telling the people, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done! Can this be the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed)?" So the people left the city and were coming to Him. Now many Samaritans from that city believed in Him and trusted Him [as Saviour] because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked Him to remain with them; and He stayed there two days. Many more believed in Him [with a deep, abiding trust] because of His word [His personal message to them]; and they told the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; for [now] we have heard Him for ourselves and know [with confident assurance] that this One is truly the Saviour of [all] the world."

Key Points:

God loves to use our story powerfully. We don't have to have all the answers, but we can tell of our experience with Jesus. The woman at the well got so excited that she shared her encounter with Jesus with others. She wasn't even sure he was the Messiah and yet a whole town came to faith through this woman. Telling our story is a powerful way of offering Jesus to others.

The effect of offering our story can be direct in drawing someone into a relationship with Jesus.

It can also be indirect in planting a desire to find Him and hear Him. We all have a story to tell.

Personal testimonies, describing the intervention of God in our lives, are a compelling witness.

It may have been a miraculous event, it may have been a "divine incidence" - a coincidence so impossible to explain that it can only be understood by accepting that it was an act of God.

Reading stories of well-known Christian figures whose stories are remarkable can be compelling.

The lives of people like Jackie Pullinger, Gladys Aylward and Corrie ten Boom speak volumes.

But our own personal stories, grounded in less remarkable lives, can seem more real to people.

It may be a word which someone gave you, or a Bible verse, which was just right for the moment.

It may be a time in your life when you despaired of a way out, but then somehow you succeeded.

It may have been an answered prayer, or an unanswered one which turned out to be for the best!.

Offering our story, of our life, and how Jesus touched us, guided us, is something we can all do.

Questions:

1. Have there been events in your life which were hard to explain in human terms?
2. Have you had answers to prayer which you can recall and describe clearly?
3. Have you offered your story of how you came to faith to those in your family?
4. How might we grow in confidence to share our story with God (both coming to faith and seeing Him at work week by week)?

Challenge:

Try and share your story of coming to faith, or a moment where God impacted you, with at least one person during the coming week.