

# COMMANDS OF CHRIST

## 7. Witness



The last command of Jesus that we are going to study in this series is found in Acts 1:8. What is this command? We are to be His witnesses. Let's look at the example of Jesus Himself, and how He witnessed to a Samaritan woman, and see what we can learn.

### Scripture Reading: John 4

#### A. Who do we witness to? John 4:4-9

First of all let us see who this person was that Jesus witnessed to.

##### ***What race was this woman? v9***

We are told that she was a Samaritan and Jesus was a Jew. At that time the Jewish people looked down on the Samaritans, but Jesus reached out to her. We can witness to a person of any race because God loves people of all races and colours.

##### ***What kind of person was she? v17-18***

She was a needy person who was searching for real love. Jesus knew that she had been married five times and was now living with another man. She was living a sinful life, but Jesus cared for her.

##### ***Why were the disciples surprised? v27***

They were surprised that Jesus was talking with a woman. In that time a man would never talk with a woman in a public place, but Jesus spoke to her because He saw her need.

Often we have prejudices and look down on other people and races, but as God's people He wants us to witness to those of any race and those who come from different backgrounds to us, because He also loves them and died for them.

#### B. How do we witness?

##### **a.) Beginning v7-10**

The most important witness is a changed life. Our lives and deeds will shine more than our words. But Jesus did not begin to speak to the woman about spiritual things. Look at v7. He asked for a drink! When we ask a favour it shows we respect a person and they will often be open to us. The woman was surprised that Jesus spoke to her respectfully and began to speak to Him. Then Jesus began to speak to her about another kind of water, the living water of the Holy Spirit that He could give her. We can also do this when we are speaking with people. Perhaps you are talking about everyday things, and then you can begin to talk about spiritual things.

##### **b.) The Need v16-18**

When people are in need they will often listen! Jesus began to ask the woman about her personal life. In fact Jesus had a word of knowledge, which is a gift from the Holy Spirit. He did not know this woman, but the Holy Spirit showed Him that she had been married five times. This made the woman realise she was a sinner, and although she tried to change the subject her heart had been touched. Her real need was forgiveness of sin. Before a person can come to Jesus they need to realise they need forgiveness and want their lives to be changed. We need to be gentle with people and not be judging or rude. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

**c.) Side Track v19-25**

The woman was ashamed and so she tried to change the subject. People sometimes do that when you share Jesus with them. They may ask which church you go to, or ask another question to side track you. Jesus answered the woman's question and then came back to the real issue. The real question is not about church, but whether that person knows the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour and Lord.

**d.) The Answer v25-26**

Finally Jesus shows the woman who He is. He is the answer to her need. He is the answer to every man's need. Once we know the need of the person we are talking to we can boldly show them that Christ alone can really meet that need. Every man's need is ultimately a result of sin and Christ alone can save us from sin and help rebuild our lives.

**C. Who can witness? John 4:28-30, 39-42**

***What did this woman do as soon as she had been cleansed of her sin? v28***

Yes, she immediately went back to the town and told the people what Jesus had done for her. They no doubt could see that something had happened in her life, and so they too went to see Jesus. Look at the result! In v39 we are told that many believed because of the woman's witness. You may be a young Christian and feel you know little, but you can bring people to Jesus. They will come because they first see a change in your life and hear your testimony.

**Conclusion**

We have learnt from the example of Jesus how to witness and we have discovered that we can witness too, just like the woman. This is part of God's wonderful plan for us. Look at v35. Jesus said that there are many people who are ready to respond to the message, just like a ripe crop that is ready to harvest. Some people may say, "Oh it is not time", but Jesus said that it is. "The crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested." What He is saying is that there are people who are ready now to respond to the gospel. Let us go out. You may have much to learn, but the power of the Holy Spirit is with you. Begin today!

Jesus said, "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power and you will be witnesses for me." Amen.