



Course Name: Vision - How We See Jesus

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Course description:

This course examines the vision from the perspective of how we see Jesus. The significance of this class places an emphasis upon the following thought: The way we see Jesus changes how we see others.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Examined five ways Jesus was seen based on the encounter with a Samaritan woman in John 4.
- B. Considered two powerful lessons from this text to help us increase our vision.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of three or four at each table and ask each table to describe how they see Jesus. What comes to mind? What words would you use to describe Him?
- B. After each group has prepared their list, ask each group to share their list and why these words relate to Jesus.
- C. Then, ask everyone turn to John 4.
 - 1. Discuss the ways the Samaritan woman saw Jesus in this text.
 - a. Ordinary Jew (Jn. 4:9)
 - b. Someone greater than their father Jacob (Jn. 4:12)
 - c. A prophet (Jn. 4:19): Jesus knew her better than she knew herself (This supports what John identifies about Jesus in Jn. 2:25)
 - d. The Messiah (Jn. 4:25): What barriers did Jesus have to overcome to get her to this point?
 - i. Racial barrier (Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans)
 - ii. Social barrier (Not proper etiquette for men to speak with women in this type of setting)
 - iii. Religious barrier (Her thoughts about worship and the location were different than what Jesus taught her)
 - e. The Savior of the world (Jn. 4:42): Once she sees Jesus as the Messiah, what does she do and what are the results?

- i. She leaves her water pot and goes to her people inviting them to come meet a man who told her everything about herself, then she asks, “This is not the Christ is it?”
 - ii. The people come out to meet Jesus and they invite Him to stay with them and He stays for two days (Do not miss this point – it is the longest time we have Jesus engaged with non-Jewish people).
 - iii. The Samaritans come to believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world.
2. Based on the progression of how Jesus is identified in this text, ask each group to take 5-10 minutes and then present to the class why this progression is so important for us today? Ask each group to share their responses and consider a few suggestions below after the class shares, if they are not mentioned.
 - a. Many people today want Jesus to be their Savior, but not their Lord.
 - b. Until one recognizes the authority of Jesus as Lord, He cannot be their Savior.
 - c. The purpose for which Jesus came to this earth stands as the same purpose for which the world needs Him today.
 - d. Jesus as the Messiah/Christ indicates that He is the “anointed one” of God. This highlights the kingship Jesus held. It is interesting to consider that He came to be a King, and as such, He is able to be the Savior of the world.

Conclusion:

- A. As noted, the way we see Jesus changes how we see others. There are several lessons to consider from this lesson today.
 1. Intentionality: Jesus was intentional when engaging this woman. We must do the same.
 2. Influence: One person (a Samaritan woman) had the kind of influence that led her people to believe in Jesus. We don’t have to have the greatest reputation, or be the greatest speaker, in order to influence others for Jesus.
- B. In the bulk of John 4, we learn about an encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman that would lead to her believing in Jesus. As important, if not more so, is the leading of her people to believe in Jesus.
- C. Next week, we will focus on the heart of the account in John 4, where the apostles return from town and Jesus teaches them a powerful lesson about vision.

Recommended Readings:

Wright, N.T. *How God Became King*