



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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## **John 4:27-42** **He Told Me Everything I Ever I Did**

**Related Topics:** The Essence of Evangelism; The Power of a Transformed Life; Bottom Up Evangelism; The Truth About Our Sin; Thriving on the Will of God and Work of God; Jesus, the Savior of the World

This morning we're going to pick up in John 4. Last week we looked at Jesus having a conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. The big chunk of this morning's study is going to deal with this woman's response to Jesus and the impact she had on her world.

**WE REMEMBER** — That in the day of Jesus Israel was divided into 3 regions: The Northern region called Galilee; The Southern region was called Judea. Both of those regions were populated and controlled by the Jews. The middle region was called Samaria. There had been 400 years of hatred and prejudice between the Jews and the Samaritans — mutual hatred on both sides. But John told us that Jesus **NEEDED** to go **THROUGH** Samaria. In the heat of the noon day sun, he sits by Jacob's well, just outside of the town of Sychar. He is exhausted and parched. His disciples leave him to find some lunch. As he sits there, a woman comes to the well and Jesus initiates a conversation with her.

We noted last week how Jesus, unlike you and me, had zero concern for His reputation. He shouldn't have been speaking to this woman, as a Jew or as a rabbi. He shouldn't have sat there for a couple of hours and had a conversation. But, Jesus wasn't really concerned about that. Jesus is concerned about this woman knowing God's love and God's power.

We are so concerned with what people think about us. Did you know that there are three of you? There's the **YOU** that you think you are. There is the **YOU** that you want others to think you are. It's like a fake resume —

but it's one we work hard to maintain. The third you is the YOU God KNOWS you to be.

So out of love for the Father and love for this woman, Jesus INITIATES a conversation with her. He built a bridge into her world. Then He spoke the truth to her. He lovingly exposed her idolatry and her sin. She had made men the idol of her life. She lived for men and poured out her life for men. Jesus told her that God the Father was seeking her to worship Him.

Suddenly, she doesn't care about anything but knowing where she can find God, how she can worship Him, how she can drink the living water that Jesus offered to her.

**<sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”**

What followed that statement is a moment that we can only wish was captured on video. Can't you just picture Jesus leaning forward? How close does he get to her face? What do his eyes look like? And, what is the tone of his voice? He leans in and he says – ***“I who speak to you am he.”***

AMAZING — He did not reveal himself that way to the people at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee to. He did not reveal himself that way to the Jews in the Courts of the Gentiles on the Temple Mount. He didn't reveal Himself like that to Nicodemus, one of the most powerful wealthy and moral men in Israel. He didn't even reveal himself that way to His disciples. It wasn't until later in His ministry — when they were in the very North of Israel in Caesarea Philippi — when He would ask them, “Whom do men say that I am?” But He leans directly into the face of this immoral, empty Samaritan woman and says – *I who speak to you am he*. He actually uses the words ***EGO EIMI*** — *I am* — the very name of God spoken to Moses at the burning bush. He closes the deal right here.

**So we pick up this morning at Verse 27**

**<sup>27</sup>Just then**

LITERALLY — *“At that moment”* or *“just as he said that.”*

## his disciples came back.

Could be read as, “returned to where they had left Jesus.” They went into the city for a couple hours, and came back after picking up something to eat. They find Jesus sitting right where they left Him.

## They marveled that he was talking with a woman,

Their amazement is rooted in the background that we laid at the front of this chapter.

**QUOTE: William Barclay** — *The Rabbinic precept ran: "Let no one talk with a woman in the street, no, not with his own wife." The Rabbis so despised women and so thought them incapable of receiving any real teaching that they said: "Better that the words of the law should be burned than deliver to women."*

**QUOTE: William Barclay** — *Jesus could not have done a more shatteringly unconventional thing than to talk to this woman.*

## but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”

This is interesting, however staggered they were by seeing Jesus engaged in conversation with this woman, it did not occur to them to ask the woman what she was looking for or to ask Jesus why he was talking to her.

They’ve seen Him turn water to wine at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee, breaking all social etiquette by serving the best wine last. They’ve seen Jesus make a whip and turn over tables in the Courts of the Gentiles on the Temple Mount. They’re starting to figure out that Jesus is not exactly a tame Lion!

They’re beginning to understand that even if they don’t know what Jesus is doing, Jesus knows what He is doing! In our world it would be equivalent to seeing Jesus in a gay bar having a glass of wine in his hand talking to a bunch of guys.

They assume that Jesus is not sinning, even though He has obviously crossed some pretty clearly defined lines.

By contrast the religious leaders labeled Jesus a sinner because of the situations they saw Him in.

*Matthew 9:11 Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and prostitutes?"*

*Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'*

**So, here's the woman's response to this conversation she had with Jesus.**

**<sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar and went away into town**

There's an interruption. We aren't given any more details except the fact that she runs back to town. She leaves her water pot!

Does she leave it because Jesus had said he was thirsty and she now loves Jesus so much that she leaves her water pot for Him? Does she leave it because she's so excited she just forgets about it? Or does she leave it because she is planning on coming back with anyone and everyone else who wants to meet Jesus? YES!

**<sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"**

FIRST — She invites people to meet Jesus! This is a recurring theme going back to the first followers of Jesus — *Come and see!* They couldn't wait to introduce their world to Jesus! She didn't want to get them to Jacob's Well, she wanted to get them to Jesus. Keeping this story in mind, much of the church's strategy today looks like this: Invite them to the well and we hope they'll meet Jesus. "Hey everyone, you just have to come to Jacob's Well. It is the biggest well in town. Plenty of parking and you can get in and out real quick." Once we get them to the well we'll introduce them to Jesus.

The whole point is getting people to Jesus. That is what was in this woman's heart!

SECOND — She's able to go into the town and say — *Guess what! I met a man who's told me every wicked thing I've ever done.* I bet she made some men in that town REAL nervous!

*What do you mean **everything**? Lower your voice and get over here — What do you mean, **everything**....*

*You know — **everything** we ever did together.*

She goes into town, she tells the whole city — *I'm a sinner! You have to come meet the man who showed me that I'm a sinner! He's looked into my soul. He sought me out. He found me. I see now the gift, the giver, the living water, the truth, the Father, the Messiah.*

There's no shame. She's drunk deeply. She's satisfied. She doesn't need to hide anymore!

That is so foreign to our culture, sadly even church culture. We have this unspoken, mutual agreement — *You do not crush or break my false image of myself and I don't break yours. You don't crash into my world and I don't crash into your world. I let you maintain your illusion and I maintain my illusion.*

What this woman essentially says is — *This man showed up and he told the truth.* She'd never met anyone like that.

In our world, it's the same way. Let me illustrate: As a rule, no one tells the truth about themselves. When someone asks — *"how are you doing?"* — *"I'm doing all right"* or *"I'm O.K."* When I ask that question in church and someone gives me that answer I often times look at them and say — *"No you're not!"*

What this woman is essentially saying is — *Come and see a man who cared enough about me to break every rule just to ask me how I'm doing!* We live in a world where, as a rule, nobody cares. They may say things like — *how are you doing?* But in reality they don't want anything back from you but a one-syllable word response. They ask how the totality of your life is and they only give you one syllable to respond because they really don't care.

God cares to get to the truth about who we are! How do we know that? He became a man, exhausted Himself to get to Jacob's Well, broke every barrier just to show this woman the truth of who she was and the truth of Who He is. Because if we don't get to the truth of who we are and Who He is we can never worship God.

This woman was so amazed that Jesus knew every thing about her life, and knowing everything about her LOVED HER. Most everybody she knew, knew a lot about her and didn't love her. Jesus knew **all that she ever did** and loved her.

That is why she runs back to town, the same way we should run back to town. And says — *you have to come see the man who looked into my heart. He saw my sin — the wreckage of my life because of my own sin and the sins of others. He so gently challenged me to turn. He sought me out. He quenched my thirst. I've found the man I've always wanted!*

She says it to anyone who will listen. She does the work of an evangelist. She's like a little kid coming out of the womb. The first thing every little kid does is let you know loud and clears that they exist! They just open their mouths and let you have it. That's exactly what she does.

New Christians are just like that. They can talk about their sin and their Savior with great boldness and conviction and power. They don't know much, but they're really motivated. But often times the zealous new believer starts settle into "church", gets a bit isolated from those people that are just like they used to be, starts to get a bit of Bible knowledge, and the next thing you know they're DOMESTICATED.

**This woman was not only ZEALOUS**, she was also pretty wise or as the British would say "Clever."

### **Can this be the Christ?"**

She is not saying — *"Oh, this is the Christ."* She's saying, *"That couldn't be the Christ, could it?"*

Why is that so clever? If she'd have come into town and said, *"Men, I've found the Messiah"* — they would have said, *"Sure — why you're the most godly and spiritually minded woman in Samaria!"* They would have laughed. Not only that, in those days, women didn't tell men anything. Had she

run in there and told all those men, they would have been insulted. Instead she says, "*There's a guy at Jacob's well that told me everything about my life — He couldn't be the Christ, could he?*" The men would be more than glad to investigate so they could become the authority in the matter of this man at the well.

So she frames her encounter with Jesus in such a way as to stir up their curiosity, get them to Jesus, because she knew from experience that Jesus could do the rest.

I really hope that we can all stand in awe of this woman! Up to a couple of hours before **Verse 29** everybody hates this woman. Everybody is afraid of this woman. Every woman in town keeps their husband far, far away from this woman because she is sexually loose and will suck them into adultery. In a small town, it is hard to get 5 guys, let alone 5 husbands. In a small, rural community, 5 husbands and then sleeping with a guy who is not even her husband.

But THIS is what is so amazing about Jesus! Her wickedness was so deep that it led to this phenomenal platform. When she stands up and talks about God's Power and God's Love and God's Grace, God's forgiveness, God's healing, everybody is STUNNED! All of the sudden, she sounds like a preacher now. Paul the apostle would write the same thing concerning himself —

*1 Timothy 1:14-16 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**<sup>30</sup>They went out of the town and were coming to him.**

The people essentially dropped everything to meet Jesus for themselves. The people start coming in a **constant flow** because they see what Jesus has done in this particular woman and for this particular woman. They see

that Jesus came and told her the truth, confronted her sin, loved her, and forgave her. Bottom line, Jesus gave her a hope and life and a future.

They aren't fully sure who he is, all they know is that this woman has experienced the power of God.

**I love the fact** that God sometimes works in ways completely contrary to the way that we would anticipate. For too long the Church in America has thought of evangelism in a TOP > DOWN way; if only the President loved Jesus or if only the guy who pitches the 9<sup>th</sup> inning in the 7<sup>th</sup> deciding game of the World Series would love Jesus or, if only the lead singer of some famous band would worship Jesus, then we'd see the world drop everything and turn to Jesus. **WRONG!** There might be a superficial response, but in regards to genuine conversion we wouldn't see much at all! Because nobody knows those people, nobody is connected to those people. God changes the world from the **BOTTOM > UP!** He does it by changing the lowest life, the man or woman in the place of the greatest despair and they change the world. We see it here in John 4. We have seen it throughout history. We have seen it throughout history (Peter and John before the Sanhedrin: "Ignorant and unlearned men"). It's unbelievable.

What we see happening in John 4 was **UNTHINKABLE** to the religious establishment of Israel. It is the equivalent of us seeing every meth lab, every crack house, every topless bar, every porn shop, and every depraved pit in the Sacramento and Foothills region emptied out and everybody starts coming to Jesus because Jesus showed just one of the worst in those places that they were sinners and He is the Savior! That is what happened in John 4. In the place that nobody thought God loved, in the place only populated by the Godless, and the idol worshippers. They come to Jesus and become worshippers of the true and living God, because Jesus showed this one woman, who was the worst of the worse and lowest of the low that she was a sinner and He is the Savior. She went and told everyone else what Jesus had done for her. They knew what she used to be and they saw what she had become. So they *were coming to Jesus.*

### <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile

Back at Jacob's Well — While all of this is taking place

**the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”<sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**

THIS IS SO BEAUTIFUL — Jesus says (and remember, Jesus tells the truth all the time) *Listen guys — when you do what God wants you to do, it’s like eating a meal.*

I’m going to talk food here for a moment. We got a gift certificate to Ruth’s Chris for Christmas. It was such an amazing meal. I had the Rib Eye. We had all these amazing vegetable dishes that we shared. There’s always that LAST bite, that LAST taste that you just want to savor for a really long time. Don’t you love those kind of meals.

Jesus says — *When you obey God and you do His will and you participate in what he’s doing in this world, it’s like a meal — There’s a flavor and a sustenance that comes that is just beyond expression.*

Some of you are probably starving to death because you haven’t been obedient and/or haven’t been participating in His work. Some of you haven’t been participating in His work because you think you aren’t fit or aren’t ready.

The woman of this chapter is a great object lesson for us. Some people buy into the myth that God can use them and they can be a part of God’s work when they finally get their life together. They think that before God can use them they need to fix their lives, memorize a bunch of Bible verses, go to a bunch of training classes, and then God can use them. Aren’t you glad this woman didn’t operate under that theory? Can you imagine the mess she would have had to clean up before serving the Lord? She is Humpty Dumpty pushed off the wall five times. She’s a mess. *Okay, I’ve got to go find my first husband, what was his name again? Second husband, third husband, fourth husband, fifth husband. Then, I’ve got to go to bible study and I’m going to memorize some verses. I’ve got to go to training, Bible college, seminary. Boy, I tell you what, some day, I’m really going to be useful.*

No. By the time **someday** rolls around she'll be dead! By the time **this** woman gets her life together, it is over. As much as I know, I need to speak. As much as I know, I need to share. She just starts participating in the work with God immediately. And there was tremendous power in that!

Some of you have never had THIS meal that Jesus is talking about because you have bought into that myth. Some of you have never had THIS meal that Jesus is talking about because you have been too selfish to participate in the work of God.

Huge point, participate in what God is doing. Get involved in people's lives. Get involved in ministry. Throw yourself in and I'm telling you, it's like eating an amazing meal that tastes delicious and makes you strong.

Just to see children come to know God. To see women and men come to know God. To see families come to know God. Jesus says there's something about that; it is like the best meal you've ever eaten.

Jesus then continues.

**<sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'?**

In Jewish agriculture about four months elapsed between sowing and harvesting. If this was spring the harvest was not until fall.

**Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.**

*"Lift up your eyes." They would have seen fields yet green, not ready for harvest, still the better part of four months to go. But at that very moment they would have seen over the tops of the green grain a group of white robed Samaritans streaming towards them because of the amazing testimony of that one woman. And He says, "Sure, the harvest of grain's got four months, but here comes a crop of Samaritans ripe for the harvest."*

The work of sowing the Word and reaping the harvest of souls is not locked into an agrarian time-table. He contrasts the green grain with the white robed Samaritans moving across the field. They're already to be harvested. Jesus reveals Himself to one very lost woman and in a couple

of hours there is a huge harvest of Samaritans walking towards them!

Certainly there are times when we sow the seed of the Gospel and it takes a long time. Some of you have been sowing seed for years with family or friends. But sometimes you tell people and just instantaneously, they respond. That's amazing to me. It almost stuns me when you have the joy of seeing that happen.

EXAMPLE: England — Keswick Convention in the Lake District of England. Girl named Sharon standing on the fringe of the tent ("marquis"). "Where's your God when every night my dad comes up the stairs drunk to beat me?" We spoke to her of how God is so loving that he sent His Son to die not only for her, but for her dad's sins too! We told her that God would be a perfect Father to her. She left. The next morning she was in the first session, there she was, not on the fringe of the tent but in the very front, GLOWING! After the service we started walking towards her, and she practically ran to us. She said, "You'll never guess what happened to me!" We saw it time and again with thousands of kids.

There is nothing more wonderful than seeing someone's eyes open, their heart change, their life change, see God flood into them and just change them. Forgive them. Heal them. Love them.

HERE'S THE POINT GUYS — Never grow weary of just telling people about how Jesus showed you how sinful you are and how merciful He is. Never get tired of telling people about how Jesus showed you the emptiness of the idols you were pouring your life out to and how He so quenched the great thirst of your soul that you now worship Him!

When you speak of Jesus in those terms you rip Him completely outside of the little socio-political box they had placed Him in. They filed Him under the category of the political religious right, or good behavior, or family values. He is suddenly the PERSON who knows everything about you and still loves you.

Last week we noted that this woman and Nicodemus (Ch.3) were polar opposites. But there is one striking similarity between them. Nicodemus discovered that he needed more than a Teacher, he needed a LIFE GIVER and a SAVIOR. In our society a woman with this much relational and sexual baggage would think that she needed a therapist or a psychotropic drug or both! She would think she needed some open-minded

religious tolerance! She discovered that she was a sinner who needed salvation and a relationship with God, she found both in Jesus!

**<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."**

Why did they believe? She wasn't trained, she wasn't schooled, she wasn't a pastor. But she was transformed! She came and she just told her story. *Here's who I was — here's who Jesus Is — and this is what I am now!* And the news of her transformed life just bubbled through the town. People responded — the whole city went out to see Jesus for themselves.

**<sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word.**

You have to see this; you really have to love it. Jesus is essentially squeezed out of Jerusalem by the religious squabbling of the religious leaders, the theologians. Then He goes to the place that as far as the religious leaders in Jerusalem were concerned was filled with sickos and wackos; heretics and freaks. And it was all the sickos and wackos; the heretics and freaks, that were saying — *Jesus can you stay with us?* They respond to Jesus, they care to listen.

**<sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."**

*...the Savior of the world* — I personally believe that John has been dying to get that one out for four chapters.

The most unlikely people GET IT. The lowest of the low confer this title upon Jesus. Jesus is not just the Messiah of Israel, He is the Savior of every tribe, language, and nation. He cares about everybody. They grasped the scope of who Jesus is and what He would do! Yes Jesus cared about this ONE woman, was driven to meet her at Jacob's Well and tell her about her sin and reveal Himself to her as Savior. But He wants to take the whole world and reconcile it unto himself. He wants to take all nations of the earth and bring them back together under the authority of God. They grasped the global scope of the person and work of Jesus.

Don't miss this, the reason they grasp this is because of the words of one woman whom they knew to be radically wicked, but was now radically transformed by Jesus. Listen guys, tell people your story. There's power in it. Tell them whatever it is that God has forgiven you for, whatever God has healed you of, whatever God has taught you, whatever God is in the process of doing. Tell it! You never know who will hear of God's love and love God back. You never know, you might push the domino that changes the whole city.

### **CLOSING —**

As we look at this woman we must first see ourselves! We have to understand that at the bottom of our emptiness is the reality of sin and idolatry. Every problem in our lives individually and every problem in the world around us is the by-product of rebellion against God. We (personally, and humanity as a whole) have gone our own way and as a result everything is under a curse, everything is falling apart from the center. From birth, no one is connected to God. We're lost. We don't know what we're doing and we're screwing up the whole planet. When one woman heard sin explained like that she said, *"I don't believe in sin, but that sure would explain everything, wouldn't it?"* You see, if you push that domino, every other domino makes perfect sense. Why do you lock the doors on your house? Why do you lock the doors on your car, even when you're going 60 mph. Sin! People are screwed up and you can't trust them! For some this morning this might be the light bulb going on for the first time, and you're thinking — *If that's true, then we've got a serious problem.* Yep! We've have got a very serious problem! Jesus is the one and only remedy for this thing called sin!

If you are a Christian, you need to understand that most people have never even thought about these things. The majority of people in our city, in this region, have no idea of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us. They think he's connected with value-based politics or good behavior or family values. But they can't tell you who He is and what He's done. They've never heard.

Jesus says – look at the fields, they're ripe for harvest. There are a lot of people that would believe if someone would go tell them. The Good News of Jesus Christ will not go forward through marketing, or gimmicks or schemes. The way it will go forward is by you and me doing what this

woman did — *“Come and see the man who told me I was a sinner and that He is the Savior.”* Tell them — *Here’s who I was, here’s what Jesus has done for me. Here’s what he’s changed. Here’s what he’s changing.*

The hardest part for all of us is when we come to the point of saying — *I’m going to tell you why Jesus died.* Which isn’t just — *Jesus died for my sin. But — He died for MY sin — here is my real resume. Jesus came, spoke the truth, loved me, died and rose for what I’ve done.*

We just have to love this woman because she did just that! *Here I am. And, here is God. And, here is what he has done.* The result was that **EVERYBODY** wanted to meet Jesus. For two days Jesus met with them and told them the truth! They’re totally amazed — *This man is telling us the truth. He’s zeroing in on our sin. Telling us about God. Changing us. Causing us to be new people.*

Most of you know a lot more than this woman did. This woman so excited about Jesus that she went into town and told everybody and the whole city was completely transformed. Think about this, she didn’t know half of what we know. She didn’t have the New Testament. She hadn’t seen Jesus die on a cross. She hadn’t seen Jesus rise from the dead. She hadn’t seen the Holy Spirit poured out. She hadn’t seen the Church come into existence. She got a small glimpse of the kingdom of God and the power of Christ and the love of God given to her in Christ and it changed everything. To us, we’re looking at it now in macro vision. We see it all. God came as one of us because in our sins we were alienated from God, enemies of God. God came looking for us. Along the way God sat with this woman for a couple of hours to let us know that he cares, not just about the nations of the earth, but the individual people residing in those nations. God lived a perfect human life. But the majority of people hate God who became man because God is a truth teller. God confronts and exposes everyone’s false resumes. He declares that the resume that you’ve projected is a lie and the person you truly are is in need of grace and salvation. They kill him for being a truth teller. But, Jesus in His great love for us, in that moment took upon Himself all of our sins and He suffers and dies in our place. He endures the death and punishment that we deserve. The wage for sin is always death. But, three days later, Jesus rises from the dead to conquer sin and death and hell and Satan and lies. The person who believes with their heart on the Lord Jesus will be *born again*. Like this woman, they will have all of their sin forgiven, their broken lives made whole, the deep longing of their hearts satisfied!

Jesus is alive. We're not just reading a story about a teacher who lived and died. We're reading the history about God who became , died on a cross, rose from the grave and is alive forevermore. This is the history of God who is still seeking worshipers, Who is still telling the truth.

If you don't know Jesus, I invite you guys to meet THIS Jesus.