

# Extended Shepherd's Notes on John 3-4- Learning to Lovingly Witness to Jesus

## 1) What is the gospel? (Content)

- **Its about Jesus; not a religious system...**
    - Took Nicodemus to task for it & wouldn't let Samaritan woman hide behind it...

**Quote:** John Marks, Reasons to Believe... "Either he walks and talks, or he means nothing at all. In other words, he's as real as you or me. He's not a painting; he's not an idea or an ideal. He's a guy who shows up on the radar."
  - **Its about Jesus as the Gift of God... 4:10**
    - The giver of the Spirit... 3:34-35
    - The bridegroom for the church... v. 29
    - The true light of heaven... 3:11-13 & 19-21
  - **Its about Jesus as the Christ... (Kingdom of God)**
    - Christ = King... Christ = Savior...
    - The Savior King came to bring the Kingdom of God → refers to the reign or rule of God progressively worked out through the lives of God's people in the world.
      - We're not sales people; we're heralds; not success, but faithfulness
- Answer:** Its about the gift of God in the person of Jesus as the Christ of the Kingdom.

## 2) What do we do about gospel? (Confident Confession)

- **Ability to respond comes from the new birth... v. 3:1-8**
  - Divine signs aren't enough without divine aid. We need more than information – even miraculous information! We need an operation on our hearts from above.
- **Authentic response is seen in a radical confession of Christ...**
  - Nicodemus- Jesus = teacher from God; Not enough- I'm God from Heaven...
  - Samaritan Woman = led to a confession that re-orientes her entire way of thinking
  - Father of boy = led to see a need greater than the healing of His Son
- **How do you know if this has happened in your life?**
  - Answer: What are your deepest desires now? (Sin or Jesus...)

## 3) How do we come to know the gospel? (Communication)

It comes through 4 "P" People- Personally, Plainly, Passionately, Pressingly,

- **Personally** → Conversation w/Nicodemus vs. with Samaritan woman- very different... unique to each ... Converse with neighbors; not about just lecturing to them...
- **Plainly** → There is to be an honesty to our manner that doesn't hide the truth...
  - Nicodemus- "Wait, you really don't get it"... Woman- "Go call your husband..."
  - Beware half-truths... Is gospel about us or God? Our need for love/purpose/etc. or a sin-bearer & new life?
- **Passionately** → There is a heartfelt joyfulness in our manner of communicating Christ...
  - John the Baptist- 3:29-30 (Joy of bridegroom's friend... He must increase)
  - Jesus loosing appetite in excitement (4:31-34)... Women's enthusiasm (4:28-29)  
**Question:** Do you have enough experience of Christ that people actually believe you when you sing about him... or testify about him?
- **Pressingly** → There is an urgency without coercion to our manner...

- **Corporate Application:** Need to get better at this on the whole church level as well... Help one another in at least 3 ways... 1) Pray... 2) “One Little Thing” form... 3) Begin to invite people to meet Jesus @ WPC Worship Services

## **Conclusion:**

**Main Point: The content of the gospel brings confident confession of Christ that compels us to communicate the gospel like Jesus did.**

### **Imagine this in action in our lives...**

- **Imagine introducing your friends & neighbors to the greatest person you know & love...**
  - You know a compelling passion & joy...
  - Less concerned with all the answers; more concerned with 4 P’s...
  - Radicalness of confession brings 2 more 2’s- prayerful patience...
- **Imagine inviting them to a church that is inviting but unsettling...**
  - It is inviting...
    - Welcomed and valued from start to finish...
    - Invited to Jesus as they see you @ worship- and believe you!
    - It is seeker-sensible- They are not the focus- the person of Jesus is!
  - But it is also unsettling...
    - Unsettling as worship speaks to heart realities we bury...
    - Unsettling as hear of the Holy Sovereign God who we exist to glorify...