GOD WANTS FATHERS
Text: Titus 2:1,2,6-8

Introduction: The apostle Paul instructs the aged men and the young men. Paul spoke of the need to be doctrinally sound and holy behavior. So often our doctrine may be sound and behavior unholy. Sometimes our behavior may be holy, but our doctrine unsound. In the Christian life there has to be an agreement between doctrine and behavior or both will suffer. God wants men who will be godly examples for their families.

I. GOD WANTS SAVED MEN.
A. Men bought.
1. Saved people are bought with the precious blood of the Lamb. 1 Peter 1:18,19
2. They acknowledge and testify to receiving and accepting Jesus as personal Saviour. They realize the great price that was paid.

B. Men born again.
1. They are born again. They have experienced the "New Birth". They have become sons of God.
2. They are new creatures in Christ and are able to lead their families in the Lord. II Cor. 5:17

C. Men battling the Devil.
1. Saved men realize the Devil is their adversary and seeks to lead souls to hell and damage the lives of the saved. 1 Peter 5:8
2. We are called to put our armor on and fight as soldiers. Eph. 6:12; II Tim. 2:3,4. We must fight for our families.

D. Men busy in the Lord's service.
1. They believe in living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Titus 2:12
2. One way to fight the Devil is to be busy in the Lord. Idle saints may find themselves fighting God's people instead of fighting the Devil

II. GOD WANTS SPIRITUAL FATHERS.
A. The Bible is valuable.
1. The words in II Timothy 3:16,17 are real and precious.
2. Spiritual fathers read and study God's word for truth, food, guidance, and praise. II Timothy 2:15

B. Our church is vital.
1. Spiritual fathers are regular church goers with their families. Hebs. 10:25
2. They want their families to enjoy the teaching, preaching, praising, and fellowship of God's people. Eph. 3:21

C. God's will is virtue.
1. Spiritual fathers want to know and do God's will. They want to pray as Jesus in Luke 22:42.
2. They strive to do God's will, stay within its bounds, and teach their children to do so. Romans 12:2. God's will is precious.

D. God's Son is victory.
1. There is victory in trusting the Lord. I John 5:4
2. The Lord gives victory in the struggle of the flesh and death. Romans 7:25; I Cor. 15:57

E. God's Spirit gives visions.
1. He convicts of sin and illuminates the heart and mind. John 16:13
2. He leads and guides in the truth.

III. GOD WANTS SEPARATED FATHERS.
A. They are sober.
1. This word means wise or sound in judgment.
   Sober minded means discreet.
2. Fathers who live separated lives are wise. II Cor. 6:17
B. They are grave and temperate.
   1. Grave has to do with sincerity and seriousness.
   2. Temperate simply means to be and practice self and Spirit control. Eph. 5:18

C. They are sound.
   1. Sound in the faith. They are sound doctrinally in the faith or system of truth.
   2. Sound in charity. Men who are sound in loving without conditions or demands.
   3. Sound in patience. They are men who are patient or long-suffering.

D. They are patterns of good works.
   1. They are patterns for others to live by.
   2. They are rich in good works or they are doing God’s Work.

E. They are doctrinally sound.
   1. Their doctrines show incorruptness, gravity, and sincerity.
   2. Doctrine and practice must agree.

F. They are sound in speech.
   1. They do not utter words that contaminate their families. No curse words, dirty jokes, slanderous or gossip thoughts.
   2. No one can say evil about the way they talk.
   3. Godly speech even causes the contrary part to be ashamed.

IV. GOD WANTS SAMPLE FATHERS.
A. They are examples of holiness.
   1. Our children are being stained by unholy ways of this present generation. Movies, books, and T.V. are destroying the moral standard of the young.
   2. Fathers need to stand for and live holy for God as an example because of God’s will.
   3. Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6:4

B. They are examples of love.
   1. They are to love their families dearly and with that agape love. Romans 5:5
   2. The life we live must be governed and lived with the love of God.
   3. Paul warns us that people will be without natural affection. II Timothy 3:2,3

C. They are example of His forgiveness.
   1. God forgives us freely and very frequently. Eph. 1:7
   2. Fathers need to be examples of forgiveness. Our children will lie to us, misrepresent the truth, fail to obey us, get with the wrong crowd.
   3. We must learn to forgive them of sin. May our forgiveness and patience break their hearts.

D. They are examples of His grace.
   1. God is gracious towards us. His grace is abundant and tender.
   2. May God’s grace settle us, strengthen us, and establish us as fathers.

3. God’s grace will definitely help in time of need. 
Heb. 4:16

From Alabama
What a blessing we have received from your printing ministry. Keep up the good work!
As pastors, we constantly look for new ideas and illustrations we can share in our ministry. The printing of your books as well as those of other pastors have helped in our everyday work of reaching others for Christ. Please tell your church from this pastor that you never know the lives you touch by your ministry.
I enclose a check for your ministry.

From Haiti
God knows how much I appreciate the ministry of Grace Missionary Baptist Church. Being in Haiti as a Haitian doing mission work is tough, but God’s grace is with me.
Thank you and may God keep on blessing such a vital ministry.

North Carolina
Thank you so much for your corresponding to my desperate help with sermon materials. Please add my name and address to start receiving the SOUNDING OUT THE WORD paper. What a great blessing it was for me and our church. I have already began to study the outlines to get me a message for my people.

South Carolina
Thank you for the wonderful outline books that you sent to me. They will be very helpful to me in the days to come. Also, Thank you for the paper. I am going to enjoy it also.
Also, I have shared your address with some of my preacher friends to be a help to them. Thank you and may God bless you in your work of spreading the Word of God. We pray for you.

Oklahoma
Thank you so much for your recent mailing. The outline books and newspapers are a tremendous blessing to me and I know they will be useful to me in my preaching ministry. I am writing to you to ask for the books that have been copied at Office Max that you mentioned in the Oct-Nov. 1995 issue of the SOUNDING OUT THE WORD. I would appreciate your sending these to me as soon as it is convenient to do so.

Virginia
Greetings in the name of our wonderful Saviour. I enjoyed talking to you on the phone Monday. I appreciate the paper, SOUNDING OUT THE WORD, so much and also the books. They have been a real blessing and help to me. I want to thank you and the people for your hard work, time, and sacrifice to make them available.
GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS-T

Introduction:
A. Biblical education
   1. INFORMS
   2. ENLIGHTENS
   3. EQUIPS
B. Biblical knowledge gives us an awareness that produces appreciation for the things of God.

I. TEACHERS-TRAINERS:
   II Tim. 2:2, 24; Heb. 5:12-14

A. RECEIVERS of the truth - intellectual accumulation.
   B. REALIZERS of the truth - spiritual perception.
   C. REVEALERS of the truth.
      1. Through EXHORTATIONS - EXPOUNDING the truth.
      2. Through EXAMPLE - EXEMPLIFYING the truth through behavior.

II. TEMPERATE I Cor. 9:25; Titus 1:8
A. The Concept EXPRESSED - This means to be self-controlled or exemplify self restraint.
   1. It means you refuse to let yourself get out of control.
   2. This is something you must learn through obedience, dependence, and experience.
B. The Concept EXEMPLIFIED - The apostle John.
   1. He was a hot tempered - uncontrolled individual.
   2. He became a model of Christian love - both in declaration and demonstration.

III. TESTIFIERS
A. The EXHORTATION - "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." Psalms 107:2
B. The EXAMPLES
   1. The Apostle Paul.
   2. The Woman at the well.
   3. The maniac of Gadara- Jesus wanted the people to see the difference that He could make in someone's life.

IV. THANKFUL Eph. 5:20
A. Discipline yourself to create the habit of being thankful.
B. Name some things that you're thankful for.

V. TRANSFORMED - Romans 12:1,2
A. They have made the INITIAL PRESENTATION.
B. They have continued in the DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.
C. They are experiencing the transformed life through the ministry of the Spirit.

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OUR PAPERS AND BOOKS ARE NOT FREE!!!
They are free to you and will always be, but the printing and mailing of the materials does cost someone. Our church carries most of the load financially. We have about 15 churches who are sending monthly offerings to help. We have 20 to 30 individuals who send in offerings to help us. Some are monthly supporters. Most are one time offerings. Please consider helping with an offering to this ministry that is reaching people in 49 states and 59 countries.

THE MASTER'S MEN
Text: Matthew 10:1-6

Introduction: It is the highest honor to be numbered with the Master's men. To be called to preach His gospel today is as great as it was in the days when He called out those first disciples. As God called preachers we should be no less willing to follow Him in the same selfless way and take our calling as seriously as these men did who walked and talked personally with the Master and sat at His feet for instruction. We have in our possession His complete, inerrant divine Word as our instruction. Our call can be as sure, our conviction should be as deep, our courage as daring, our commitment as divine and our character as devout.

I. MEN WITH A DIVINE CALL - Matthew 10:1
   A. Called by the Master V1
   B. Counted worthy by the Master V1
   C. Commanded by the Master V5

II. MEN WITH DEEP CONVICTIONS - Acts 1:13,14
   A. Conviction concerning the Saviour
   B. Conviction concerning the Scripture
   C. Conviction concerning the saints

   A. To faithfully preach the gospel
   B. To face the problems of life
   C. To follow the plan of Christ

   A. Committed to the truth of Christ
   B. Committed to the task for Christ
   C. Committed to the testimony in Christ

V. MEN OF DEVOUT CHARACTER - Matthew 19:27
   A. Men with a pardon from Christ
   B. Men with a position in Christ
   C. Men with a passion for Christ

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This is one of the outlines from CLARK'S COUNSEL TO CORINTH by Neal Clark. If you do not have this Sounding Out the Word book, send in for it today. We reprinted this book in January of 1995.
THREE "UNUSUAL" WORDS
Text: I John 1:8-10

Introduction:
A. This passage was written by the APOSTLE OF LOVE. He spoke and wrote of love more than any other Bible writer.
B. This passage was WRITTEN TO THOSE THAT HAD "BELIEVED ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD", I John 5:13.
C. This book was written to believers of three age groups. I John 2:13: FATHERS (Spiritual mature); YOUNG MEN (Young maturing adults); LITTLE CHILDREN (Newly saved ones)
D. This book was written to saved people in an attempt to LEAD THEM INTO TRUE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. I John 1:3
E. This passage was written as A REMINDER to the saved, and the unsaved can profit by the same truths.

1. God wants us to KNOW OUR SINS!
   a. His Word is said to be a "two-edged sword" to "prick" our dull hearts to make us conscious of our sins. Heb. 4:12
      ---3,000 were "pricked" in their hearts and repented of their sins and were saved.
      ---Unbelieving Jews were "cut to the heart" and stoned the speaker to death.
   b. The Holy Spirit was sent to "REPROVE OF SIN, of righteousness, and of JUDGEMENT TO COME." John 16:8
   c. Prophets and Pastors are called and commanded to "CRY AGAINST SIN."
      ---Isaiah 58:1 "CRY ALOUD, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET, AND SHEW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, and the house of Jacob their sins."
      ---I Tim. 5:20 "Them that sin REBUKE BEFORE ALL, that others also may fear."

2. God wants all sinners SAVED OR UNSAVED to repent! Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3; Rev. 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and REPENT."

3. God wants all sinners to be saved FROM SIN! Matt. 1:21, Luke 19:10
4. God wants all sinners to be CLEANSED FROM THEIR SIN STAINS AND SIN GUILT!
   a. We can't cleanse ourselves! Jer. 1:22
   b. Hear Jesus! Matthew 26:28

I. ALL ARE SINNERS!
A. God's Holy, just, and Good Law was given to reveal the SIN and GUILT of each sinner. Romans 3:19,20
B. The SINLESS LIFE of Jesus points up our sinfulness. Romans 3:23
   1. We best not measure ourselves by ourselves... but rather by the Son of God. Here the ground is level!
C. God's plain Truth declares we each have a SIN PROBLEM!
   1. Of Humanity in general. Eccl. 7:20; Romans 5:12,3:23
   2. That SAVED PEOPLE RETAIN A NATURE TO SIN and do sin: Matt. 26:41; Gal. 5:17; James 5:16; Rev. 2:5,16

II. ALL SIN IS AGAINST GOD!
A. King David's confession: Psalm 51
C. Sin is NEGLECTING KNOWN DUTY! James 1:22; 4:17; Matt. 21:28-31
D. Any sin AGAINST A FELLOW-BELIEVER is against God. I Cor. 8:12

III. ALL OUR SIN IS KNOW TO GOD!
B. Proverbs 15:3.
C. Proverbs 5:21.

IV. SOME ARE NOT AWARE OF THEIR SIN GUILT..FOR THESE REASONS.
A. They have listened to the wrong instruction!
   1. Jesus told of "...the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." John 16:1
   2. This scemed to haunt Paul as long as he lived.
   3. Jesus dealt with people who thought they were not sinners because they were descendants of Abraham.
   4. Today we have a generation which has either RECEIVED THE WRONG INSTRUCTION or have had NO INSTRUCTION on right and wrong.
      a. Everything is good in itself.
      b. TAUGHT BY HOME EXAMPLE that DRINKING, CURSING, LYING is all right.
      c. LITTLE OR NO DISCIPLINE or CHASTENING for sin has been interpreted to mean approval. Judges 21:25; Proverbs 16:2; II Tim. 4:3,4

B. Many have a SEARED CONSCIENCE.
   1. The normal person is JUDGED AND CONDEMNED by his own God given conscience. Rom. 2:14,15
   2. I Timothy 4:2 reads of some, "Speaking lies in hypocrisy HAVING THEIR CONSCIENCE SEARED WITH A HOT IRON."
   3. Let your conscience be your guide is only GOOD
SEARED WITH A HOT IRON."

3. Let your conscience be your guide is only GOOD WHEN ONE HAS A BIBLE TRAINED CONSCIENCE.

V. EXAMPLES OF SOME WHO SAID THE THREE UNUSUAL WORDS.
A. Prophet Baalim: Numbers 22:34
B. Achan (Last minute sinner): Joshua 7:26
C. King Saul (One who sought to pass the buck): I Samuel 15:24
D. King David (The idle mind-headstrong): II Samuel 12:13; 24:10
E. The Prodigal: (The sinner who truly repented) Luke 15:21
   1. He came to himself.
   2. He was indeed sorry for his sins.
   3. He made a GOOD RESOLUTION. Many of you have been intending to make restitution for a long time.
   4. He put resolution into action!

VI. CONSIDER WITH ME BRIEFLY THE WAGES OF SIN.
B. Loss of the joy of salvation, Psalm 51:12.
C. Unanswered prayers, Isaiah 59:1,2.
   Loss of child!
E. Loss of life: Acts 5; I John 5:16
F. Remember Hebrews 2:2.

VII. THE BLESSED RESULTS OF TRUTHFULLY SAYING, I HAVE SINNED.
A. Mercy and abundant pardon. Isaiah 55:7
C. Forgiveness V9
D. Cleansing
   1. One may sin and deny it...but is UNCLEAN INSIDE and knows it.
   2. One may sin and NOT KNOW it...and be miserable inside.
   3. When one truly repents...God is faithful to both forgive and cleanse.
   4. Note V7

Conclusion: Both the privilege to REPENT and BELIEVE are GIFTS FROM GOD! Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8

THINGS I LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Years ago, I was repairing our TV set which had quit working. I decided that a couple of tubes had burned out. I knew enough to unplug the set before starting to work on it. I was pulling one of the tubes with one hand. I placed my other hand on the picture tube. That's when I found out the hard way about the power charge retained by the TV picture tube.

Our hot water tank began leaking water out of the rusted-out bottom. I connected the garden hose to the valve to drain the water so I could replace the tank. As I saw the water running down the driveway, I thought, I don't want to waste all that water. I picked up the hose and tossed it in the middle of the lawn. I gave no thought to what hot water might do to the grass. I found out the hard way that scalding water is not compatible with living grass.

When I was in the Marines, the DI in boot camp told us not to disassemble the trigger housing unit of our M-1 rifle. Well, there was some Cosmoline behind the spring in the trigger housing unit. No matter how I tried, I couldn't get to the grease with the stupid little spring in the way. I popped the retaining spring out. I was able to thoroughly remove the Cosmoline and really clean the unit up. I started to put the spring back in to reassemble the unit. That was when I found out the hard way that it was next to impossible to do that without proper tools.

Each of these caused me a degree of mental stress and physical pain. However, it is horrifying to realize there are areas of human experiences that the majority of humanity will find out about the hard way. I hope you won't be one of them.

The majority doesn't now accept the following: Hell is real. It is literal and it is eternal. After death comes the judgment. Salvation is only in Jesus Christ. All who have not accepted Jesus as a personal Saviour will die in their sins. Without Christ there is no escape from hell. There is no second chance after death. In the day of judgment those who have rejected the above facts will find out the hard way that each of these were true.

Someone probably had told me about the TV tube, but I hadn't listened. Someone had probably told me about the hot water on the lawn, but I hadn't listened. Someone did tell me about the trigger housing unit of the M-1 rifle, but I didn't listen. I wish I had listened in each case. Because I didn't, I had to pay for it the hard way. Will you listen now, as I tell you what God says about salvation? It is only in Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

Jesse R. Spurlock 305 W. Jarman Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110. This is one of the articles in LESSONS FROM LIFE by Jesse R. Spurlock. Send in for this S.O.T.W. book today.
FOUR REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE GOD
By Philip Cook

Text: Deuteronomy 10:12,13

Introduction: When God saves us, He wants us to serve Him. He wants us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. In our text in the book of Deuteronomy, the Lord gave the Israelites several requirements, but let us concentrate on the requirement of service. They were commanded to serve the Lord their God with all their heart and with all their soul. We should do the same thing. In order to serve God effectively, we need to meet certain requirements in our lives, so let us consider four requirements that are important in serving God.

I. CONVERSION
A. Definition—an experience associated with a definite and decisive adoption of religion.
B. Jesus spoke of being converted in Matt. 18:13.
C. Peter spoke of being converted in Acts 3:19.
D. Service for God cannot coincide with anything else, Matt. 6:24.
E. One cannot serve God until he has believed with his heart unto righteousness, Matt. 15:8.

II. CONCERN
A. Definition—marked interest or regard; care.
B. God desires that His children "have the same care one for another.", 1 Cor. 12:25.
C. The Philippians were concerned about Paul, Phil. 4:10.
D. We need tender hearts that are concerned about others; the Scriptures sweetly testify that Jesus had compassion upon multitudes of people because of their spiritual need.
E. We should be concerned about everyone.

III. CONSECRATION
A. Definition—solemn devotion and dedication to God.
B. God wants us to do His will; this can be accomplished only by allowing God to work through us.
C. We need to be totally yielded and surrendered to God, so that He can control our lives and use us to serve Him.
D. We ought to be like clay in the Potter's hands, Isa. 64:8.
E. We need to live like Peter and John, so that people can "take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus."

IV. CONSISTENCY
A. Definition—living conformably to one's own belief or professions.
B. Consistency requires faithfulness which is a great virtue.
C. Consistent, faithful Christian living will make us stronger in our relationship to God and in our service for Him.
D. The church of the Laodiceans (Rev. 3) serves as a great reminder of our need of serving God consistently.

Conclusion: Do you possess these four things in your life? If not, then you can by confessing your sins to God and by obeying His Word.

NEW BOOKS
42nd Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference outline book is available. We have printed 5,000 copies of this book.

WOMEN FOR HIS VESSELS By Violeta B. Hayes 200 copies of this book have been made and are available.

A STUDY OF PSALM 119 by J.W. Griffith has been printed. We printed 5,000 copies of this book.

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER
Text: Romans 8:28

Introduction: This verse is a great comfort to every loving child of God.
A. How does God work all things for the good?
B. To what extent is God working?
C. Why does God allow sin and evil to exist?
D. Does even sin and evil work together for our good?
E. What about the small, insignificant details of life; does God work through them?

I. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD
A. The providence of God refers to "God's active roll in all the events of the physical, mental, and moral realms to work out His purpose.
B. The attributes of God make providence possible.
C. God is working out His will for man on this earth every moment.

II. THE PROOF OF PROVIDENCE
A. Over the universe at large
1. Psalms 103:19, "The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."
2. Daniel 4:35, "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"
3. Ephesians 1:11, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"
B. Over the physical universe
1. Matthew 5:45, "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."
2. Psalms 147:18, "...he causeth his wind to blow,
and the waters flow."
3. Psalms 148:8, "Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word."
4. Psalms 104:14, "He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man."
5. Psalms 135:6,9, "Whosoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places. (7) He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries."

C. Over animal creation:
1. Psalms 104:21, "The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God."
2. Matthew 6:26, "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"
3. Matthew 10:29, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

D. Over the affairs of nations:
1. Job 12:23, "He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again."
2. Psalms 22:28, "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations."
3. Acts 17:26, "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"

E. Over one's birth and lot in life:
1. I Samuel 16:1, "And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons."
2. Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."
3. Galatians 1:15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."

F. Over successes and failures in life:
1. Psalms 75:6,7, "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. (7) But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."
2. Luke 1:52, "He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree."

G. Resulting principle:
1. NOTHING HAPPENS IN OUR WORLD WITHOUT GOD'S PERMISSION.

2. NOT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL.
Conclusion: Notice closely Romans 8:28.
Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

A. Everything that happens does not work for the good of everyone!
B. Only those who truly love God qualify for this promise.
C. Jesus said, John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
1. John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he is it that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."
2. I John 3:23, "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."
D. You need to place your complete faith in Jesus today.

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SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL
Text: John 4:7-10

Introduction: When you spend time with Jesus, you can't remain the same. Either you get better, or you get bitter. As we spend time with Jesus at Jacob's well, we will see how the life of a Samaritan woman was completely changed, and I trust our lives will be changed as well.

I. JESUS TALKED WITH HER.
A. Jesus was on His way from Judea to Galilee. V1-5
1. The Lord never did anything by mistake.
2. The Lord's steps were deliberative.
B. Jesus took an unusual route because the Jews and Samaritans did not get along. V9
1. The nation of Israel divided after Solomon died.
   a. Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam, Samaria.
   b. Southern Kingdom, Rehoboam, Jerusalem.
2. The Northern Kingdom was deported into Assyria and Samaria was destroyed in 722 B.C.
3. The king of Assyria repopulated Samaria with foreigners who intermarried with the remnant. This is why they were considered half-breeds, II Kings 17:24.
C. Jesus used the water of Jacob's well to talk to her about living water from God's well, V10-14.
1. Notice the nature of it - "Living water", V10.
   a. It is life-giving water.
   b. The water from Jacob's well sustains life, but the water from God's well imparts life. It is given to regenerate, not just refresh.
2. Notice the source of it - "Thou wouldst have asked of me, and He would have given thee."

Sounding Out The Word

June 1996
a. It did not come from Jacob's well.
b. Jacob's well cannot quench the thirst of the soul.
c. The world doesn't have the answer.
d. Drugs cannot satisfy, neither can drink.
e. Power won't satisfy, nor will passion.
3. Notice the effectiveness of it - "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." V14
   a. If you drink from Jacob's well, you will thirst again. V13
   b. If you drink from God's well, you will never thirst again.
4. Notice the conditions of it - "If thou knowest the gift of God... thou wouldest have asked of Him." V10
   a. First, we must know. Know we are sinners. Know we need to be saved. Know how to be saved.
   b. Second, we must ask. Ask of Him. Ask the Savior. Ask in faith.
5. Notice the freeness of it - "Whosoever drinketh of this water." V14
   a. Whosoever will may come.
   b. Whoever is thirsty may come. Rev. 22:17
   c. II-As the Savior talked with the Samaritan woman about the need for living water, we need to talk to people about the need for salvation. It wasn't socially acceptable for Jesus to talk to a Samaritan, but it was right in the eyes of God.

II. JESUS TESTED HER - V15-18
A. Jesus knew this woman's life, as well as her heart.
   1. He asked her to bring her husband to Him. V15
   2. He was testing her.
B. She responded that she had no husband; and she was living with a man at the time. V16
   1. She knew what kind of life she had lived.
   2. She wasn't trying to hide it.
   3. She admitted it.
   III-The first thing we must do to be saved is admit

and acknowledge our sin. The publican prayed, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner."
III-Self-righteousness is what keeps men from coming to Christ. The Pharisees wouldn't accept Him because they did not believe they needed Him. They were righteous in themselves.
III-We are tested by the Word, and the Word says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
III-Do you recognize that you are a sinner? Do you acknowledge your sinfulness? Do you admit that you can't save yourself? This is what it takes to be saved.

III. JESUS TRANSFORMED HER. V19-29, 39-42
A. She perceived He was a prophet. V19
B. She knew the Messiah was coming. V25,26
C. She believed Him and was transformed by Him. V39
   1. She went back to the city.
   2. She said to the men, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" V29
   3. Many believed on Him because of the words of the woman. V39
   4. Many more believed because they saw for themselves. V41

Conclusion: She transformed because she spent some time with Jesus. What about you and I? Do you need to be transformed? Do you need to be saved? Does your life need to be turned around?

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This is one of the sermons we will print in a book later on entitled, MY FAVORITE SERMONS ON SALVATION by David Harris

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For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16