



Chapter Six: Strength in Weakness

John 4:16-30

October 31, 2021

Two Surprises in the Samaritan Woman Story

First, Jesus exposes her hidden secret: 4:17,18; Jesus critiques her theology: 4:22

Instead of defensively withdrawing she presses in and ultimately promotes Him: 4:28,29

Second, the people's eager response to her announcement: 4:30, 39-42

What was Behind Her Surprising Response to Jesus?

She felt seen and loved through this direct encounter with Jesus

Encounter trumps content

Application for Mission Outpost Witness: The Goal of Jesus Encounter

Conduit for an encounter more than a content drop

Content is meant to feed encounter

Our desire is for people is to encounter Jesus in us on the way to encounter Jesus directly

Is our own relationship with Jesus concept driven or encounter driven?

Ecstasy and dimensionality: secular theology professors and John 5:39

What was Behind The Surprising Response of the People to the Woman's Story?

The people saw shame being used to funnel freedom

If she could be free from her shame chain, so could they

Does everyone have a shame chain? (Moderns have other ways of talking about it)

Application: The Power of Acknowledging Weaknesses

I have emphasized embedded ourselves in our outposts with integrity and excellence

A persona of *competence* versus a persona of *completeness*

Be *perfect* (*telios*) as Your heavenly Father is perfect: Matt 5:48

Completeness means having weaknesses without being trapped by them

People can relate to this and give people hope for their completeness

Acknowledging our weakness is step one (just being weak is not an inherent attraction)

Modeling how failures/weaknesses can be integrated with wholeness is the secret sauce

When I am weak, then I am strong: 2 Cor 12:10