

BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

Sermon on John 4:1-30

by Todd OBert

**Holmes Bible College
MIN 301 Homiletics I
Professor Stacy Watford**

BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

I. A Husband and Wife Have a Serious Discussion in Their Kitchen

- A. Husband:** (With dread and worry) I just can't do it, I'll probably lose my friends and family because of this, I'll be bogged down with new responsibilities, and really what if it not enough for what we want to accomplish, and maybe I'm just better off where I'm at.
- B. Wife:** (Confused but Trying to understand) Honey, now you can be a blessing to your friends and family, you'll be free to enjoy life in all it has to offer, this can now open exciting new doors, and really what could be a better opportunity?
- C. Husband:** (Getting more anxious) I don't know what to do
- D. Wife:** (Shaking her head) Dear, just sign the inheritance check.
- E. Husband:** But it's 10 million dollars!
- F. Wife:** (Exacerbated) Sign it!
- G. Husband:** Ok...

II. The Reality of Barriers

- A.** The barriers to the man who was to inherit 10 million dollars may seem ridiculous
- B.** The barriers to one person can be real to them, even though it may seem unfounded and inconsequential to someone else.

III. 4 Hidden Barriers to Success (Inc.com)

- A.** Fear that you'll outgrow you're friends or family
- B.** Fear that you won't have time to enjoy life
- C.** Fear that it won't be enough
- D.** Fear that you'll miss something better

IV. Worldly Barriers vs. Spiritual Barriers

- A.** Fear that you'll outgrow you're friends or family
-what will they think of me if I become religious?
- B.** Fear that you won't have time to enjoy life
-religion seems boring, I want to have fun
- C.** Fear that it won't be enough
-I don't want to just become a religious person
- D.** Fear that you'll miss something better
-what if that religion is wrong?
- E.** **Barriers to one's spiritual life can be very real but what we will find out, great and eternal riches await each of us as we look past those barriers.**

SCRIPTURE: John 4:1-30 (Jesus and the Samaritan Woman)

V. The Samaritan Woman Had Barriers to Overcome

A. ADDRESSING THE BARRIERS

1. **Barrier #1:** It was within social customs that men did not address women.
 - a. In verse 27, it points out that the disciples marveled that Jesus talked with a woman.
 - b. She may have said today, "Do I know you? Go away creep!"
2. **Barrier #2:** The Samaritans and the Jews had a long-standing hatred for one another.
 - a. When the Israelites went into captivity by the Assyrians, Samaria became populated with people who either had no religion or a conglomeration of multiple religions including the religion of the Jews.
 - b. While the Jews had but one religion as we know of from the Old Testament, they were not faithful to God which led to their captivity.
 - c. In Jesus' time the Jews had attempted to make up for their past in being super religious (Pharisees).
3. **Barrier #3:** It was the sixth hour, or high noon when the Samaritan woman came to the well so the chances of getting a drink from someone at the well then was not likely to happen.
 - a. It was typical to fetch water in the cool of the morning or the evening.
 - b. It is probable that due to her shame for her lifestyle that the woman went to the well at a time no one else did and by her self.
4. **Barrier #4:** The woman would have to surrender her pride and give Jesus a drink
 - a. Jesus was said to be weary and was undoubtedly thirsty and had a need for water.
 - b. Of course then she sharply replies with a, "why are you talking to me?"
 - c. This is another barrier in their dialogue since, suppose she would have scoffed at him and **just walked away**.
(PAUSE)
5. **Barrier #5:** Jesus had to address her unbelief by saying He would've given her living water.
 - a. The woman says for Jesus to give her that living water so she doesn't have to draw anymore.
 - b. it's likely that the living water she was thinking of was like in a flowing stream not in a well of unmoving water.
 - c. Then the woman asked Jesus if he were greater than Jacob who dug the well for in her mind He would have to create a stream of water.

6. **Barrier #6:** Jesus addressed her moral failure of the fact that she had been married five times and was living with the sixth.
 7. **Barrier #7:** Jesus recognized her religious uncertainty as He told the woman that she worships what she doesn't know.
- B.** Jesus was breaking down the barriers between Himself and the woman to lead her to the truth.
1. Getting past social customs, hatred, the idea of this encounter being a random happenstance that she could just forget, her pride, her unbelief, her moral failure, and her religious uncertainty.
 2. Jesus stated that the Father was seeking those who would worship Him in Spirit and truth.
 - a. God is always seeking out those who are willing to worship Him in spirit and truth.
 - b. Jesus had used her belief in the religion of the Jews and her believing in a Christ to come.
 - i. Jesus spoke of giving her living water
 - ii. Jesus led her to the knowledge of Him being the Christ
 - iii. Jesus revealed to her that she will be soon be worshipping in Spirit and truth by saying she would be worshipping not on the mountain, as was her ancestor's custom or in Jerusalem as was the custom of the Jews, but in spirit and truth.

VI. What then is worshipping God in Spirit and truth?

- A.** The word for worship in Greek is proskuneo (pros-koo-neh-o)
 1. To kiss like a dog licking his master's hand
 2. To prostrate one's self in homage (hom-ij)
 3. To then revere and honor God for who He is.
- B.** Jesus is the Truth (**John 14:6**)
 1. Therefore the true way to worship God is through Jesus (Christ).
 2. We must know that we can't earn our own salvation
 - a. we can never be good enough
 - b. we can never do enough (Romans 3:23)
 - c. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can worship in spirit and truth.

Acts 4:12 "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- C.** God is worthy of glory, honor and our praise

Revelation 4:11, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

VII. What hinders you from receiving the Living Water that Jesus talked about?

- A.** Can you get past the barriers to Jesus and answer His calling

- B. Are you willing to give up your preconceived ideas about religion or Christianity to hear Him calling you?
- C. Can you recognize that this time is not just a coincidence to realize Jesus is calling you and that today is the day of your salvation?
- D. Are you willing to humble yourself enough to realize that God is calling you into a relationship with Him?
- E. Are you willing to let Jesus forgive you of all your sins, no matter what they are?
- F. Are you ready to accept Jesus even if you don't have it all figured out and accept Jesus as the Christ and as your Savior?

VIII. Eternal Riches Await You

- A. While not many of us would turn down 10 million dollars, we have a from God a greater promise than that.
- B. Jesus said, "but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
 1. You can be joint-heirs with Christ as a child of God (Romans 8:17)
 2. And the greatest gift of all is eternal life we receive through Jesus Christ
 3. ETERNAL LIFE...That's FOREVER!
- C. And also, that living water that Jesus spoke of to the Samaritan woman can be gotten today. Right now!

VIII. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- A. **John 3:16**
- B. **I Corinthians 15:3-4**, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"

V. Are you ready to receive Jesus?

- A. Are you ready to look past those barriers and "forget what is behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead, (Philippians 3:13)
- B. **Romans 10:9** Confessing Jesus is Lord
- C. **John 1:12** Believing and Receiving
- D. Will you confess the Lord Jesus and receive Him to be your Lord and Savior?

VI. Closing Prayer (Invitation to accept Christ and to renew one's commitment to Christ)