



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Do you want to change?

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Bob Bradley

I have a couple of three questions I want to ask and this can fit whether you are saved or unsaved. The first question is this. Do you want to change? If you survey your life and where you are at in life and what you are doing in life, right today; do you want to change? Do you long for a change in your life? As you survey your life, as you look at what is going on in your life; do you realize there is something missing. I need a change. I need the help from Almighty God. I need a change in here. I need a change on the inside. I need to change the way I look at things. I need to change the way that I do things. That is a good question that you need to ask yourself.

Not only that but also, ask yourself a question—this may fit some of us—do we want to make change in the country that is around us, the people that are around us? Do we honestly and sincerely want to make a change in them? Do we want to take the message of the gospel to them where that we can see some of them get saved? Do we want to make a difference in people's lives? Do we want to feed the hungry? Do we want to put clothes on the backs of those that are cold? Do we want to put shoes on the feet of those who need shoes? Do we want to put buckets in the hands of those that walk miles and miles every day to get their water? Do we want to make a change? Do we want to make a positive change, in our area, in our lives, in the people around us? Do we really want to make a positive change? Do we want to make a positive change in our community? Right here where we are at, right here where you live, right here in your own space; do you really want to make a change?

Do you know the scary thing today is? If we would ask that question and as I ask that question today; do you know what a lot of people will say on the inside? Now they won't raise their hand. They won't agree outwardly in what I am going to say. Even among church people, people that goes to church—many people will tell you they don't want a change. A lot of people will tell you—do you know how I know this? I know this because of how they live and what they do and what they don't do. They don't need a change, they think. They don't want to make a change in the world around them. They are not interested in helping anybody. They are not interested in doing anything that is going to promote the gospel. They don't want to change anything in their own community. They are not interested in that. They are interested in status quo.

I'm here. My family is saved. We have a few bucks. Everything is going fine. I just want to set back, eat, drink, and be merry. I hope you are not like that. That is a miserable life. That is a horrible way to live. To have that kind of an attitude towards a world that needs more help than you and I can give them and don't have any concern for them. Then we need to reevaluate where we are at and what we are doing, and what is really meaningful in our lives. We need to make sure that we are born again.

When we say that we are saved and born again, and say that we are Christians; do you know what that means? That means that we should be Christ like. Amen! Listen. Christ does care. We live in a world that people may not care but Christ does care. Christ cares for all those that we do not care about. Christ cares for all those in the world we live in that are looked at and down cast and people that nobody loves and does not care for them. Christ cares about those people.

In our lesson tonight, I want to talk about a story, about an event in the life of Christ. It will prove to you how much Christ really loves people. Amen! Not only how much He loves people but people that we say are despicable, or people that we wouldn't want to be around or have anything to do with. However, this particular person; Christ made it a special effort to get to where they were. When He got to where they were, He presented them with the message of the gospel. They get saved. They go into the town and come back. No doubt there are hundreds and hundreds of people that gets saved because Christ goes to someone that nobody liked.

Listen. I mean this. Every one of us folks are sinners. That is all we are. None of us deserves to go to heaven. None of us deserve being saved and being born again. We did not work our way there. We can't work our way there. The only reason we are saved today, is because of the grace and mercy of Almighty God. That is the only reason. We may have been raised on this side of the tracks and somebody else may have been raised on the other side of the tracks. That does not make any difference. All of mankind, do you know what they have...and womankind, it doesn't matter what they look like on the outside, they have red blood running through their veins. We are all the same. God created man, and God created woman. God loves people. God loves the despicable, the despised; God loves them. If He didn't some of us wouldn't be saved. Truth!

John 4:1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

John 4:2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

John 4:3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

John 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

John 4:5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

John 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.**

John 4:8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

- John 4:10** Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**
- John 4:11** The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?
- John 4:12** Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?
- John 4:13** Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:**
- John 4:14** **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**
- John 4:15** The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.
- John 4:16** Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.**
- John 4:17** The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband:**
- John 4:18** **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.**

When you read the story here, Jesus is in Judea. He is going to go to Galilee. If you would look at a map of Israel—this is going to be a real poor map—to the north is Galilee. To the center of the state of Israel is what we know as Samaria and Judea is on the bottom down here. Jesus is in Judea and He was going to go to Galilee. Usually, one of two things would happen because of the animosity that the Jews and the Samaritans had towards each other; people would usually come over here and come up the Jordan valley and by-pass Samaria, or they would come over here to this side and come up the coast and by-pass Samaria all-together.

Do you know what? Jesus was different. He was totally different than everybody else. Do you know what He does? The Bible says as I read to you here...

John 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

He had a need. There was a reason that He was going to go through Samaria.

Before we get too far, the reason for the animosity between the Jews, if you read history and read your Bible, you will find out in 720 or 721 BC the nation of Assyria came to the ten northern tribes of Israel. They carried the ten northern tribes away. They took all the people from the ten northern tribes of Israel and they would move them out of their neighborhoods and move in Assyrians. What happened was the Assyrians and Jewish people intermingled and they came up with the name of Samaritans. They could not trace their lineage all the way back to Abraham so if you said you were a Jew and could not trace your lineage back to Abraham, then you were in trouble with the orthodox Jews. Anyway, that was the reason for the animosity. They had dealings with one

another because we know the disciples here are going to go over into the town and buy some food for Jesus to eat, but when you read that in the original; it brings out the idea that a Jew would not do a Samaritan a favor and vice versa. A Samaritan would not do a Jew a favor. That is the word, when we are using the word dealings. That is what it means here. It doesn't mean that they wouldn't have any dealings with them. Again, we know the disciples were going into the town here to buy meat for them to eat so they had some dealings with one another.

Here they are. They are traveling. Jesus comes. He is coming right up through the middle of Palestine. He gets to a place that the Bible calls Sychar, the town. It was a place where there was a well. It was a place where Jacob, his family had dug a well. Wells were something very valuable back then. When Jacob and the patriarchs were living, even when Jesus Christ is living because you needed water. I have said this many times. There was limestone very close to the top of the ground in Israel. It did not take much to dry things out. If you had a supply of water, then it was very valuable.

Jesus comes to this well. He comes to this well. People, probably as they traveled would come here. They would drink. They would draw water for their homes. They would draw water for their cattle.

The Bible says Jesus comes here. It is noon. It is noon and He has probably been walking for 4 to 6 hours. He is probably tired. The Bible says He is weary. Jesus Christ got thirsty just like you and I get thirsty. He got tired just like you and I get tired. He comes here and the Bible says He comes to this well. When you read history, this well is probably some 125 feet deep, and 6 or 7 feet in circumference. It had an abundant supply of water. He comes Jesus. He comes here to the area where the well is at. He meets a woman here the Bible says. In verse 7...

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.**

Women usually did not come to draw water at noon. They would usually do it in the morning before temperatures would get hot. However, probably as I read and thought and prayed over the years; this lady probably did not want to spend much time around other people. She did not want to spend much time around where people could see her and talk to her. What I am trying to say is this. She probably wasn't very proud of her lifestyle. Okay. Because of how that she was living. She was living with a man that was not her husband. She has had five husbands. Her lifestyle would have prevented her from coming around where a lot of people were. She probably felt embarrassed. She probably felt a lot of different things.

Here she is. She comes to draw water. Isn't it amazing how the Lord knew exactly when this lady was going to be there. That is not a coincidence folks. You couldn't take a monkey wrench and make that into a coincidence. Because the Lord, the Bible says, must needs go through Samaria. He is on a time table. He is doing His Father's will.

We are going to get into that in a minute if we have time. Here He is. He comes. This well is here and here comes a woman of Samaria to draw water.

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.**

Jesus probably didn't have a rope. He probably didn't have a bucket. He probably didn't have any necessary stuff to draw water from this well. He simply asked this woman; I want some water. Give me something to drink. As I read this story here, we know here that this woman knew that Jesus was a Jew. No doubt, how He was dressed and probably some of the things He had on and His garments and things like that. She makes the statement, "How is it that you being a Jew, would ask a drink from a woman that is a Samaritan?"

Even among Jewish people, rabbi's and people here, teachers in that day, did not spend much time talking to women. They just didn't do that. That was something that they just did not do. Here Jesus is there is no doubt in my mind this woman knows who He is, as far as being a Jew; not who He is as far as being Messiah at this time. She says, "How is it..." In other words, why would you ask for me to give you some water? You are not supposed to like me. I'm a Samaritan and I am a woman. You are not supposed to like me. Yet here you are asking me for a drink of water. This woman is saying, this doesn't make sense to me. This lady probably, had not been treated well. She probably was the talk of the town, wherever she lived at. She had all kinds of issues in life, but she is having a conversation with somebody that doesn't care. Isn't that great?

Isn't that great we can talk to somebody as great as our God is and do you know what He will never do? He won't throw my past up to me. He won't tell me how bad I am. He won't do that—after we get saved, I'm talking about—he won't do that. He is a God that forgives. He is a God that cleanses. Could you imagine how many would be saved if we had to be perfect to be saved? None of us would. Would we?

Here this lady is. She makes the statement. We don't have any dealings together, and you are asking me for something to drink.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

This lady, there are some things she did not know. Some things that were very important that she was ignorant of. One thing is that she did not know who He was. Not only that but she did not know what He had to offer. Not only that she is going to ask how she could receive it, but she was ignorant of these things. She did not know these things. She did not understand these things.

Jesus said...

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who**

it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

John 4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

You don't have anything to draw with. This well is deep. From whence then hast thou that living water? Where are you going to get living water from? This water that you are talking about that you can give me that is living water; how are you going to get it. Where are you going to get it from? You don't have anything to draw with. The well is deep. How are you going to get this?

John 4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

Are you greater than Jacob? Jacob is the one who gave us this well. He was the one that dug this well. He was the one that drank out of this well. You are saying, you are going to give me living water. Are you greater than him?

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:**

She comes here every day. She draws water every day. I don't know how many people she is drawing water for, maybe some animals, maybe for children. I don't know. She comes here every day. She takes this water. She takes it back home. No doubt, she cooks with it. They bathe with it. They drink it. Do you know what it does? It satisfies for a while. Do you know what she had to do the next day? She had to come back and draw water again.

Listen. I don't care what you are drinking from in this world; you will never be satisfied. The Bible says there is pleasure in sin for a season. You may enjoy what you are doing. It may bring a little bit of pleasure to you for a while. You may be satisfied, maybe, for a while but it won't last long. You will have to look for something else, and something else... That is what the emptiness and the longing that we have on the inside spiritually; things of the world do not satisfy that. This woman come every day. She drew water. It would satisfy her for a while. However, she had to continually come back and come back. Aren't you glad you found something one day that satisfied us down on the inside. Aren't you glad that we found something one day. That stopped the search for something that would satisfy our soul.

Probably every one of us sitting here tonight and everybody listening to me tonight; we searched for a long time in life. Some of us longer than others. Some searched maybe 5 to 20 years and some may have searched 40 or 50 years to try to find something that would satisfy the soul. Aren't you glad you found that? Aren't you glad that you have something today?

John 4:14 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

Do you know what Jesus is saying here? “Lady, what I can give you, you are going to be satisfied with it. What I give you is going to satisfy you on the inside. The water that I can give you is going to be a well that is going to be springing up unto everlasting life.” Bubbling up.

When you are saved, when you are born again; every day is a great day. Amen! We may have issues and sicknesses. I get all of that. However, when we are saved and living in the will of God and experiencing eternal life and experiencing the great blessing of God upon our life; it just bubbles up. It gets bigger. Just like a cold glass of water when you are hot, it quenches our spiritual thirst day after day...

This woman said...

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

Get this. “Give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.” Do you know what Jesus could have said? I don’t have time for this lady. She has lived a life that I don’t appreciate. I don’t like, so I will just take my stuff and go on up the road.

I’m glad He did not do that in my life. I’m glad He did not do that in your life. We wouldn’t be here tonight. He loves people. It doesn’t matter how sinful that we have been, how bad we have been. Jesus Christ loves people. I wish we could get that through our heads. People that are born again, people that goes to church; I wished we could get hold of the fact that Jesus Christ loves everybody. He doesn’t love your sin. He hates sin, but He loves you. You have something that has been created that is going to live eternally that is in you and that is your soul. Jesus Christ loves you.

This lady says, “Hey, give me this water. Give me this water that I don’t have to come here any longer and draw. Let me have some of this water.”

Do you remember the time that you asked Jesus Christ to save you? Can you remember the time that you asked Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sin? Amen! Could you remember the time that you said, “Lord, please save me. I’m a sinner.” Do you know what He did? He saved you, but He gave you some living water. Didn’t He? He gave you some living water. Water that will satisfy your thirst.

As you read the story, the Lord is going to tell this lady here—He does this for a reason. This doesn’t make sense if you don’t think about it.

This lady just said, “Give me this water that you are talking about that is living water that I can have that I don’t have to come here and draw any water.” That is what she says. Then Jesus said this. “Go call thy husband.”

That doesn’t make sense to me when you look at it on the surface. Why would He say that? Why would He say to this woman that just asked Him for this living water that He can give her, why did He say then, “Go call your husband.”

Get this folks. Without conviction of our sin, there will never be conversion. If we won't deal with our sin, if we won't admit that we are sinners, then we will never ever...receive this living water.

Do you know what Jesus wanted this lady to know? I know all about you. I know what you are doing. I know where you have been. That doesn't bother me. He wants this lady to admit who she is, that she is a sinner. That she needs to get saved. That she needs something from Him. Do you know what that is? That is conviction. He wanted this lady to understand that He knew all about her. It also brought conversion or change in this lady's life.

Do you know what she didn't care to admit? Do you know what she didn't care to admit? Hey, I've had five. She said, "I don't have a husband." Jesus said, "I know that. I know that you don't have a husband. I know that you have had five and the guy that you are living with now you are not married to. I got all of that." Jesus knew all about this lady. He wanted her to admit who she was. That she was a sinner. That she needed to be saved. That she needed living water.

The big deal today with folks today; they don't admit that they are sinners. They don't want to admit that they need to get saved. I wouldn't know how many times in ministry—and I know a lot of you all have run into the same thing—in talking to people who are unsaved that curse, lie, cheat, swear, drink, steal and do all kinds of stuff. And you say, hey, did you ever consider giving your life to Jesus Christ? The first thing a lot of people say, "I don't need that stuff. The Lord is going to accept me as I am. He is a loving God and He is going to accept me as I am." Do you know what that is? That is absolutely dead wrong. He is not going to do that. If we could get people to see that they are unsaved—I will say this here and I will move on—one of the greatest problems in dealing with me own dad for 40 years was that it was hard to convince dad that he was unsaved. Amen!

Get this. He watched church members. He worked at the railroad, worked around hundreds and hundreds of people that went to church. He worked around people up there every day that professed to go to church and probably did. The professed to be Christians and I'm not saying they wasn't; I'm not anybody's judge. When you live like the world and act like the world and bear the fruit of the world then it is a pretty good indication that you are of the world.

Dad saw that. That was a big issue for dad. Do you know what he would always say? "Hey, Bobby, this one, this one...I'm just as good as they are. They do all this stuff and they want to say that they are on their way to heaven." The sad part about it is—the ones that I knew, some of them I didn't know—I could defend them. I could say, hey dad what they are doing is right. I couldn't do that. What I tried to him was this. When you die, and when you leave here, all these folks that may or may not be living as they should; you are not going to stand before them. They are not going to have any bearing on where you are going to spend eternity at. Amen!

It took sickness. It took the doctors saying, hey, Bill you don't have long to live. It took a heart attack. It took strokes. It took everything to get him to a place that he would listen, hey, I'm a sinner and I need to get saved. Aren't you glad for that? I know some of your own families here are in that same situation.

This lady here needed to understand that she needed to get saved. She needed to understand that Jesus did not care about how mean, rotten and sinful she had been. It didn't interest Him any. He just wanted her to come clean with Him. Admit who she was, that she was a sinner.

Get this. If you want to change and if you are needing a change and you are willing to listen to the voice of God so that you can make a change; then sometimes we have to come clean with God. God, I have some issues. I have some problems. I am not where I used to be. I don't work like I used to work. I don't have a concern for lost people like I used to have. Do you want to change? Do you want to change your community? Do you want to change those that are around you? Do you want to live in a way that you can change your family and your community? That is a good question for you and for us.

This lady had enough of living the she was living. Do you know what she does? She meets Jesus, read the story...they have a conversation about the temple that they have there in Samaria. They worship there. Jesus tells her that salvation is of the Jews and Jews worship in Jerusalem and so forth. However, you go on down through there and read just a little bit; do you know what she does? She leaves her water pots and she heads to town. Do you know what she does? She goes in there and finds everybody that she can talk to, anybody that she can find that will listen to her. She said, "Come see a man that told me everything that I ever did." That is what it says. "Come see a man that told me everything that I ever did. Is not this the Christ?" That is in there too.

[John 4:29](#) Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Is not this Him? Do you know what happens? The Bible says, that the people of the town started coming out. They started coming. This woman, she wanted a change in her own life. She understood she needed a change in her own life. Do you know what else she wanted? She wanted to change the community around her. She wanted her community, her family, the people that lived in the city where she lived; she wanted them to experience this well of water springing up unto everlasting life. She wanted them to experience that.

The Bible says that the people in the town come out. Do you know what the Bible says? Get this. As you read down through the story, the Bible will tell you that many people believe on Jesus Christ because of the testimony of this woman. That is in there also. That is in the book. Read it. Many people believed on Jesus Christ because of the testimony of this one little woman that whole community probably did not like, didn't

to be around, didn't want the kids to be around. Jesus loved her. He is going to use this one little woman to change that whole area.

You need to change. Do you want to change? Do you want to make a change in your community, in your family? Most of here tonight has family that are dying unsaved. Sometimes we sit and act like we don't even care. Sometimes, we have neighbors that are dying unsaved. Sometimes we act like we don't even care. We have all kinds of people that are around us dying unsaved. We act like we don't care.

I wonder. We say it is great. Some of us do. We say it is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. Let me ask you a question. How long has it been since you told somebody that? How long has it been since you told somebody; hey this thing called salvation is the greatest thing I have ever found. How long has it been since you told somebody that? How long has it been since you have shared that story? You shared that story to want to change and to help them make a change, to see things change at work, in your community, among your kids and grandkids. Some of them are in danger tonight. Some of the ones we have are in danger tonight. It is very dangerous tonight.

I'm asking the question, do we care? Do we want to change? Do we just want to have the status quo? My little group is in. I'm doing pretty good right now. I'm getting by. I don't have any health problems. I have a little money in the bank. Everything is fine. I hope you don't think that way.

Listen. Things can change in a heartbeat. One heartbeat can change all of that. One phone call can change all of that. Do you know what I want to do? The Bible says this.

They all come out. People all over this place, all over this town come out. As I said, some of the people testified that they believed on Jesus because of the testimony of the woman. Others come out and hear Jesus speak and do you know what they said? Hey, lady now we believe because we have heard Him speak with our own ears. That is in the book too. That is there. Do you know what they said? Now these are Samaritan people. Jesus is a Jew.

Isn't it great when people are born again, how that prejudice is set aside. Amen! It is! I don't care how much you hate somebody. If you really truly get saved, you are not going to hate anybody. Amen! You are not going to hate anybody. I don't care what color they are, what they have done to you, when you get saved, you don't hate anybody. If you hate somebody, you need to get saved. If you hate somebody then you are on your way to a lake of fire tonight. I don't care who you are. I don't care if you belong to this church. I don't care what position you hold. If you have hatred in your heart, you are not ready meet God.

Do you know what happens here? These people that did not have any, and wouldn't do the Jews a favor and the Jews wouldn't do them any favor; Lord, why don't you stay awhile with us? Why don't you just stay? Instead of going on up to Galilee where you are headed, why don't you stay with us? We want to hear you. We want to hear what

you have to say. Do you know what He does? He stays two days. Amen! I would say—you talk about a revival—I would say they had one. I would say that they had one.

Ask yourself a question. Do we need to change? As you survey your own life—we are good at surveying other people's lives—but we are not so hot at surveying our own life. We can see everybody else's faults. However, it is really hard for us to see our own faults. Do we need to change? Do you want to change? Do you really want to make a change for the better? Do you want God to use you? Do you want God to bless you? Do you want to get so on fire for God that you can lead your family in revival? The people that you work for and work around and work with; does that ever enter your mind? Does that ever enter your mind about leading them to Christ? Does it ever enter your mind about helping those that are dying lost? It doesn't matter whether they smell good or not. It doesn't matter whether they have had a bath today or not. Amen!

Jesus Christ loved a woman that nobody else would have taken time to deal with. He must needs go through Samaria. He was obedient to His Father's will. And because of that this lady gets saved. And because of the efforts there, I don't know how many people gets saved because of one woman that had lived a not so good life, yet she received living water and she made a difference.

Do you know what we can do? We can do the same thing. We can do the same thing. We serve the same God. God hasn't changed any. The power of God has not changed any. Now we don't experience the power of God in our lives today because we don't spend any time reading, studying and praying and cleaning ourselves up so that God can really bless our lives.

Do we want to make a change? Do we want to make a change in our community? Do we want to make a change in our family, for our children, for our grandchildren? Do we want the power of God upon our lives so that He can use us and bless us? He can place us in places that He can use us to change—get this—to change a company, a family, a county, or whatever. Do you want God to use you for that? He will do that.

If you are looking for change in your life, I want to encourage you to try Jesus. If you are listening to me...and you need a change, I want you to try Jesus. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter how mean you have been, how sinful you are; Jesus Christ is standing tonight with outstretched arms wanting and willing to give you living water.

Come and pray—