

A Moment of Destiny

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(first published in The Church Herald and Holiness Banner, 02/13/1998)

It happened during some hospital calls. As I walked down the hall and made a left turn, a friend caught my attention. "I want you to meet someone," he said. He led me into a room and introduced me to Whitey. Although the man in the bed looked to be in his forties, his hair had turned completely white - hence his nickname. He was dying of cancer.

In my visits with Whitey I had the joy of leading him to Christ and building a supportive relationship with him during his remaining days.

Sometimes I have wondered what would have happened had I made that left turn a few seconds earlier. Would my friend have seen me? Would God have sent someone else to minister to Whitey? Whatever the answers - for Whitey and me it was a moment of destiny.

Jesus and a confused woman had such a moment of destiny. We read about it in John chapter four.

The Lord was traveling through Samaria. It was about noon and He was tired. Being near Sychar, He stopped to rest at Jacob's well while the disciples went grocery shopping. Soon a local woman arrived to draw water. Jesus started a conversation by asking for a drink.

Observe how Jesus maximized this moment of destiny. He started with water, her immediate focus of attention. From what she knew He skillfully led her to what she did not know.

She raised a cultural barrier. Jesus overcame it by piquing her curiosity and arousing a sense of spiritual need.

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and he would have given you living water" (verse 10).

"If you knew." But she didn't know nor care who Jesus was. She was in the presence of God incarnate, the Messiah, the Savior of the world, the one who could transform her life and fulfill the deepest longings of her soul, and she was oblivious to it. She continued talking about water. So Jesus did too. He told her He would give her living water so she would never thirst again. Thus He led her from curiosity to desire. "Give me this water," she responded. Then Jesus got personal. "Go, call your husband" (verse 16).

Ouch! That was her sore spot. Jesus zeroed in on her need, the area of her life where she was hurting the most. He had to. Soul surgery is serious business. The Great Physician probes the soul to its core. "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus continued, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' For you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly" (verse 17).

Five husbands! She had tried to find happiness in men, only to be disappointed and hurt again and again.

We do not know this woman's name or the names of the men in her life. But they are real people living true-life experiences with all the sin and sorrow of a modern soap opera. But the one who sees each sparrow fall was watching over her, and her moment of destiny had come. This thirsty woman went out to do a routine task—take her water-pot to the well. There she met the Master of her life.

At first she tried to avoid the issue. She called Jesus a prophet and tried to divert the conversation to a discussion of religious correctness. When her deep yearning for the Messiah finally surfaced, Jesus revealed Himself.

It was her moment of discovery, of faith, of transformation, of life and joy.

She was so excited she left her water-pot and ran into the city to tell the people that she had found the Christ!

Friend, now it is your turn. Jesus Christ is calling you to Himself. This is a moment of destiny for you. Human relationships without Jesus cannot satisfy. He alone will fill the longing of your soul. So receive the gift of God. Come to Jesus now.