

I wonder what your earliest memory of scripture would be. Do you remember your first bible or your first bible story? I recall learning about Noah and the animals going into the Ark two by two , We learned a song of course for that always helped: , Adam and Eve; David and Goliath; Daniel in the Lion's den and many more. But those are stories to illustrate something else and that is the word of God.

Probably like a lot of you I remember the stories, but not a lot else. Although I can recite word for word a verse from the bible. Its John ch11 verse 35 and it goes like this “Jesus wept”. Sorry, I am being facetious here but I am not a good evangelist or bible basher.

I've sown seeds with my children trying to bring them to God, to know and love Jesus with a personal relationship and encounter. I am still waiting for that seed to develop, grow and flourish. But God works in mysterious ways. For I have only recently realised that it was my children that brought me back to God by sharing their experience of Sunday School , sharing songs and bible stories that they had learned.. I came to the conclusion that they knew more than me and how could I be an example to them if that was so? I started coming to church regularly, renewing my faith, studying the scriptures and learning more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and how they had guided, protected, loved and blessed me throughout my life. I studied to be reader so I could share the good news with others. I still find it hard to talk about scripture

to strangers, to non-Christians, but I am getting bolder, less afraid, and more confident that people will want to listen to my story.

The passage for today from John tells one of the most powerful stories in the Gospels. Jesus encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacobs well. This narrative is rich with themes of grace, revelation, and crucially sharing the good news of who Jesus is.

Jesus weary from travel sits alone by the well around noon. His disciples have gone into town for food; a Samaritan woman arrives to draw water. In that culture, Jews avoided Samaritans (due to deep ethnic and

religious divisions) men did not speak publicly to women especially strangers, and respectable women drew water in groups at cooler times of the day - not alone at the hottest hour. Her timing and solitude hint at social isolation, perhaps due to her complicated personal history which Jesus later reveals.

Yet Jesus opens conversation with “Give me a drink”. She is shocked “How is it that you a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” Jesus gently leads from physical water to “Living water”. She asks for this water still thinking literally. Jesus then reveals intimate knowledge of her life. He does not condemn her, but his words draw her nearer and deeper and she recognises him as a prophet. They talk about worship Jews vs Samaritans. In a climactic moment she mentions the coming Messiah. Jesus declares “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

She immediately leaves her water jar (symbolising her old life and priorities) and rushes into town telling people to Come and see this man who knows everything.

Her simple honest testimony sparks curiosity. Many come to Jesus, believing her words and then believing more when they hear Him speak directly.

This story links beautifully to sharing scripture; or more precisely sharing the truth as revealed in scripture and personal encounter.

What can we learn from this passage?  
Jesus crosses barriers to share the truth.

He uses someone whom society deems untouchable. Sharing scripture is not reserved for the qualified or respectable.

It's for everyday encounters, for everyday people, in everyday situations.

We don't need to be theologians to share Scripture effectively, just share our story of Jesus.

Leave behind what hinders us, and go tell people about our faith. She abandoned her jar, the very reason she came to the well and she ran to share the good news. Sharing Scripture often requires letting go of comfort, reputation or distraction; the result could be a harvest, many people believed because one person spoke up.

Her testimony invites people to come and see Jesus.

Scripture sharing points to a person, not just words.

This passage challenges us. Are we willing to speak up about Jesus, even if our story is messy or our words are

imperfect? This Samaritan woman, once marginalised becomes an evangelist to her town. Her witness shows that God uses ordinary people who have tasted living water to bring others to the source.

May we like her drop our “jars”, go out into our communities and say “Come and see the one who knows us fully, warts and all, and who loves us completely – the saviour of the world.

When we share scripture faithfully, God can turn isolated wells of thirst into springs of eternal life for many.

Amen