

INTRODUCTION 引言

Why do people change? Sometimes we change by needs. For example, you relocate to another city because the company you work for is moving away. Other times we change by choices. You learn new skills or change a job to jumpstart your career. Do you become a Christian by need or by choice? Some people grow up in a Christian family and so they need to go to church on Sunday. The oldest brother-in-law of my wife became a believer by choice. He chased his girlfriend all the way to a church. By God's grace, he accepted Jesus later. His family walks with Christ to this day. Whether you receive Jesus by need or by choice, God uses His way to call you to Him. In our passage today, Jesus extended His grace to a complete stranger. We can learn from our Lord about how to share the gospel with others. On that day, Jesus was traveling north with His disciples from Jerusalem to Galilee. They passed through a town in Samaria. It was about noon time. The disciples went to buy lunch. Just then, a local woman walked by. Jesus started a conversation with her. Eventually, Jesus led her and many villagers to salvation. We run into a lot of people every day. We may or may not know them by name. But they all need Jesus if they do not know Him yet. The Lord sent someone to share the gospel with you. Today, He is sending you to reach out to others. Are you ready and willing to tell others about God?

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Relate Everyday Matters 關連日常的事務

We can break down Jesus' approach into three steps. I call step one as "relate everyday matters." Let us read **verse 7 to 9**. Jesus used water as a topic to start a conversation with the lady. It was a common need to both of them. Jesus was tired and thirsty. She had to get water for her family. At that time, showing kindness to strangers was a social norm. Therefore, Jesus' request was not out of the ordinary. What was unusual is mentioned in verse 9. Jews did not mingle with Samaritans. The background went back to 722 BC when Assyria defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Assyrians took most people away and immigrated some foreigners to the region. Samaritans were the descendants of mixed marriages between the Jews and people from other nations. Therefore, Jews despised the Samaritans as unclean half-breed people. Besides, in those days, a man would not talk to an unknown woman in public. If it happens today, he may ask for her phone number. But Jesus overlooked those social taboos because He saw the real need of the woman. I am sure we will treat people differently if we look at them from God's perspective. We will be less critical and less judgmental. We will be more patient and gracious. If we truly care about people's need for Jesus, we will be eager to tell them about Him. I told you before that I am a shy chicken. I do not have the nerve to knock on people's doors or talk to strangers on the street about Jesus. But God gives me a heart to care about people of any background and any age. Once in a while, I will muster up enough courage to chat with people like repair guys. Perhaps I will

observe how they do their work and ask them questions. Some of them may open up and talk about their family or hobbies. Then I will look for some common interests to engage in a dialogue. Usually such conversation will not last long. After they finish their work I may ask if they are believers. If not, I will invite them to our church. In most cases, that is the last time I see those people. At least I do my part and sow some gospel seeds and allow God to work in their hearts. You often go to a store, a bank or a doctor's office. You have coworkers and neighbors. The Holy Spirit may be whispering in your heart: "Hey, I want you to talk to that person about Jesus." Some of you may respond: "Sure!" If you are timid like me, you can pray silently that God will give you boldness and the right words to say. Maybe it can start with a sincere "how are you?" Once I chatted with a nurse at a doctor's office. I asked if she had a good weekend. I did not expect her to tell me that her husband passed away three weeks ago. She told me later that she is a Christian. Therefore, I offered to pray for her. People have their particular needs. At the right moment, you can tell the person that you are a Christian and introduce Jesus to him/her.

2. Reveal Deeper Need 揭開深層的需要

After starting a conversation on an everyday matter, Jesus went on to reveal a deeper need in the woman's life. From a physical need, Jesus switched to her spiritual need. Jesus asked the woman for water, He then offered her a living water. Of course, she was confused, wondering how Jesus could draw water from the well without any tool. We pick up the story from **verse 13 to 15**. Jesus was talking about the gift of eternal life like a living water that will quench people's thirst. The woman liked the idea, because she would not be thirsty again. She would not have to labor every day to get water anymore. Now Jesus got her attention. He asked her to bring her husband to see Him. The request was appropriate because the man in the house should make the final decision. The situation got a little awkward. Listen to their dialogue in **verse 17-18**. The woman had five previous marriages. She was now living with a sixth man. Multiple marriages in any culture is not something to be proud of. Elizabeth Taylor was married seven times in her life. It is not a record any person would like to set. That explained why the woman came out in the heat of noon time to get water. She tried to avoid contact with other villagers. How did this Jewish traveler know her secret life? She came to a logical conclusion. Continue to read **verse 19-20**. She interpreted that Jesus' knowledge about her could only come from God. Rather than explaining her marriage life, she switched to the topic of worship. It made sense to ask a servant of God about religious matters. Since Samaritans did not get along with the Jews, they could not go to Jerusalem to worship God. Therefore, the Samaritans set up their own altars. Since then, the Jews and Samaritans had a debate about where the right place to worship God should be. Jesus corrected her that true worship was not about location. Verse 24 is a famous statement most Christians know: **"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."** God cannot be restricted to a building. He is a spirit and He can meet with us anywhere. Therefore, true worship is not about the where, but it is about the who and how. It is about interacting with God in our spirit and in a truthful way He expects. God condemned the Israelites and Jesus convicted the Pharisees because they both worshipped God in a man-centered way. They went through rituals without a genuine

devotion to God. To worship God in spirit, one must have a spiritual relationship with Him. Otherwise, it will be like watching a video on mute. The motions cannot communicate the message. When you come to worship on Sunday, do you come with a sincere heart? Do your singing and prayer bring out praises to God? Does your heart echo with “amen” when God speaks to you through the message? God is looking for people who worship Him in spirit and truth. The woman drew water to satisfy her physical need. She had multiple relationships to fulfill her emotional need. She participated in worship to meet her spiritual need. Her real need was to know God in person. Only Jesus could provide that. Nowadays, many people are chasing after success. They believe that money and materials can give them security and contentment. Entertainment and friendship can curb our loneliness to a certain extent. After a while, we get bored and empty again. Deep down inside, people want something genuine and long-lasting. In the quiet moments, they ask why they are here in this world. They are searching for a meaning in life. Jesus is the answer. He accepts us as we are. He affirms our value as God’s children created in God’s image. He invites us to build an eternal relationship with Him.

3. Recommend a Better Solution 建議更好的答案

Jesus used an everyday matter to begin a conversation. He then revealed a deeper need in the woman’s heart. Next, Jesus recommended a better solution to her. Let us continue to read **verse 25-26**. At that time, the Jews expected the Messiah to rescue them from the oppression of the Romans. Meanwhile, the Samaritans anticipated the Messiah to appear as a teacher. The woman assumed that Jesus was a prophet from God. It made sense for her to mention about the Messiah. Another possibility was that she just wanted to end the conversation. She came out to get water. She still had housework to do. But Jesus would not let go of the opportunity. He told her: “Are you looking for the Messiah? I’m the Messiah!” How did the woman react? Look at **verse 28-30**. She was no longer shy. If that Jewish man was really the Messiah, then everyone should meet Him. Her testimony was simple: “He told me everything I ever did.” The villagers believed in her words despite her bad reputation. Our salvation testimony is a tool to invite people to “come and see” this Savior. You may not have a dramatic experience like being healed miraculously from a terminal disease or hearing the gospel while in jail. But we all have the same story like the lyrics in the song “Amazing Grace”: “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.” Just tell people how God saved you. The villagers received Jesus out of simple faith. They even requested Jesus to stay for two more days so that they could continue to learn from Him. **Verse 41-42** tell us the result. More people believed not only because of the woman’s words, but also due to Jesus’ words. They realized that Jesus was the Savior of the world. Faith must come from God’s Word. People have to admit that they are sinners. They must recognize that Jesus is the Savior. God’s Word is powerful and only God can change people’s lives. We need to quote some Bible verses as we share the gospel. John 3:16 is a simple one you should memorize – **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”** You can show it from your Bible or a gospel track as you read it. You then unpack its content. We deserve God’s condemnation due to our sins. But God loved us so much that He sent Jesus into the world to die for us on the cross.

Those who put their trust in Jesus will not face God's judgment. Instead, they will have an eternal life the moment they receive Jesus. Believe means you must accept Jesus as your Savior and your Lord. If you make the decision now, then you will become a child of God instantly. Sharing the gospel is really not that difficult. You tell people your story, then you tell them God's story. Just like any skill, the more you practice the more effective you will become.

CONCLUSION 結論

During that visit, Jesus saved a woman and some villagers. Today, Jesus sends us out to introduce Him to others. Every encounter is a gospel opportunity. Let me conclude with a true salvation story. Roger just completed his military service. He was looking for a ride home. Several decades ago hitch-hiking was common. Roger walked along a highway carrying his heavy bag. He stuck out his thumb, hoping that a nice driver would pick him up. Finally, a brand-new luxurious car stopped. A well-dressed middle-aged man asked: "Son, are you heading to Chicago?" Roger said his home was along the way toward that direction. The man introduced himself as Mr. Hanover. He has a business in Chicago. They had a good chat about different things. Roger, being a Christian, felt an urge to share the gospel with Mr. Hanover. But he was afraid how Mr. Hanover might react. As it was getting close to his home, Roger knew that the opportunity was now or never. Therefore he said: "Mr. Hanover, may I share with you something important?" After Roger was done talking, he invited Mr. Hanover to receive Jesus. He suddenly pulled the car over. Roger thought he would be kicked out. Mr. Hanover cried as he responded: "That's the most wonderful news I have ever heard." He bowed his head and accepted Jesus. Five years later, Roger was married, and he had his own family and business. One day he had to travel to Chicago. Roger decided to pay a visit to Mr. Hanover at his office. The receptionist told Roger that he could not see Mr. Hanover. But he could meet with his wife instead. Roger was ushered into Mrs. Hanover's office. "You knew my husband?" she asked. Roger told her the hitch-hike. She then asked about the date. "Did anything special happen in your ride?" Roger hesitated if he should talk about the gospel witness. After Roger revealed the details, Mrs. Hanover began to sob. When she came to herself, she explained: "I grew up in a Christian family, but my husband did not. All these years, I prayed for his salvation but nothing happened. That day after he dropped you off, he had a terrible car accident and passed away on the scene. Since then, I was angry at God that He didn't hear my prayer." God has a unique plan for each of us. If you do not know Jesus, today is your opportunity to receive Him. Do not delay. As for our brothers and sister: will you be willing to share this wonderful gift of salvation to others?

INTRODUCTION 引言

人為何會改變？有時我們會因需要而改變。例如，你需要跟著你工作的公司搬到另一個城市。其他時候，我們會因選擇而改變。你學習新的技術或換工作使你的事業更進一步。你成為基督徒是出於需要還是出於選擇？有些人在一個基督徒家庭長大，所以他們需要在星期天去教會。我太太的大姐夫是選擇信主的。他追女朋友一直著到教堂。靠著神的恩典，他後來接受了耶穌。他的一家到今天仍然跟隨主。無論你是因需要還是因選擇接受耶穌，神都會用祂的方式呼召你。在我們今天的經文中，耶穌賜救恩予一個陌生人。我們可以從主學習如何與人傳福音。那天，耶穌和祂的門徒從耶路撒冷向北前往加利利。他們經過撒瑪利亞的一個小鎮。那時大約是中午。門徒去買午餐。就在這時，一位當地的婦人走過來。耶穌便與她交談。最終，耶穌帶領她和許多村民得救。我們每天都會遇到很多人。我們可能並不知道他們所有人的名字。但如果他們還不認識耶穌，他們都需要耶穌。主派人和你分享福音。今天，祂差你去接觸其他人。你準備好並願意告訴別人關於神的事嗎？

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Relate Everyday Matters 關連日常的事務

我們可以將耶穌的方法分為三個步驟。我將第一步稱為「關連日常的事務」。讓我們來看**第 7-9 節**。耶穌以水作為話題與那位女士交談。這是他們兩人的共同需求。耶穌又累又渴。她是來為家人打水的。在那個時候，對陌生人表現出友善是風俗習慣。因此，耶穌的要求並不過份。第 9 節提到了不尋常的地方。當時猶太人不和撒瑪利亞人交往。其背景可以追溯到公元前 722 年，當時亞述打敗了北國以色列。亞述人帶走了大多數人，並將一些外邦人遷移到該地區。撒瑪利亞人是猶太人和外國人通婚的後裔。因此，猶太人鄙視撒瑪利亞人為不潔淨的混血兒。況且，那個時候的男人不會在公共場合和不認識的女士說話。如果事情發生在今天，他可能會留下女孩的電話號碼。但耶穌沒有理會那些社會禁忌，因為祂看到了那個婦人的真正需要。如果我們從神的角度來看別人，我們肯定會以不同的方式對待他們。我們便不會那麼挑剔和批判。我們會更有耐心和恩慈。如果我們真的關心別人需要耶穌，我們便會積極地跟他們傳福音。我之前告訴過你們，我是個害羞的膽小鬼。我沒有勇氣敲別人的門或在街上與陌生人談論耶穌。但是神給了我一顆關懷任何背景和年齡的人的心。偶

爾，我會鼓起勇氣和陌生人，例如修理工人聊天。也許我會觀察他們做事並請教他們。一些人可能會敞開心扉談論他們的家庭或嗜好。然後我會找一些共同興趣來聊。通常這樣的談話不會持續很長時間。他們完成工作後，我可能會問他們有否信主。如果沒有的話，我會邀請他們到我們的教會。在大多數情況下，那是我最後一次見到那些人。但至少我盡了自己的本份，播下一些福音的種子，讓神在他們心中作工。你經常去商店、銀行或診所。你有同事和鄰居。聖靈可能在你心中提醒：「我要你和那個人談談耶穌。」有些人可能會回應：「沒問題！」如果你像我一樣膽小，你可以默默地禱告，求神會給你勇氣和適合的言辭。也許你只需要真誠地說一句：「你好嗎？」。有一次我看醫生時和一位護士聊天。我問她過去的週末還好嘛。沒想到她竟然告訴我她的丈夫三週前去世了。她後來跟我說她是基督徒。因此，我便主動地為她禱告。人們都有他們獨特的需求。在適當的時候，你可以告訴對方你是基督徒，並向他介紹耶穌。

2. Reveal Deeper Need 揭開深層的需要

在耶穌以日常的事務開始話題後，祂進一步揭開那位婦人深層的需要。耶穌從身體的需要轉到她的屬靈需要。耶穌向女人要水，然後向她提供活水。當然，她很困惑，懷疑耶穌沒有器具如何從井裡打水。我們從第 13-15 節繼續來看。耶穌說的是永生的禮物，就像活水可以解渴。那位女士喜歡這個建議，因為她不會再口渴。她也不再需要每天那麼辛苦出來打水。耶穌引起她的注意了。祂要求婦人帶丈夫來見祂。這個要求是合理的，因為家裡的男人必須做最後的決定。這時情景變得有些尷尬。請聽他們在第 17-18 節的對話。這位女士之前有過五次婚姻。她現在和第六個男人住在一起。多次婚姻在任何文化中都不是引以為傲的事。伊麗莎白·泰勒一生結過七次婚。大概沒有什麼人想創造這樣的記錄。這就解釋了為什麼這個女人在炎熱的中午出來打水。她盡量避免與其他村民接觸。這個猶太人的旅客怎麼會知道她的私生活的？她得出一個合乎邏輯的結論。請繼續看第 19-20 節。她認為耶穌對她的認識只能來自神。她不想為自己的婚姻辯護，反是把話題轉向敬拜。向神的僕人請教宗教的事情是很恰當的。由於撒瑪利亞人與猶太人不來往，他們不能去耶路撒冷敬拜神。因此，撒瑪利亞人設立了自己的祭壇。從那時起，猶太人和撒瑪利亞人就對敬拜神的正確地點起爭論。耶穌糾正她說，真正的敬拜與地點無關。第 24 節是大多數基督徒都熟悉的經文：「神是個靈，所以拜他的必須用心靈和誠實拜他。」神不會被局限在一幢建築物之內。祂是個靈，祂可以在任何地方與我們相遇。因此，真正的敬拜不是關乎地點，而是在乎對象和方式。敬拜是要在心靈裡以神所期望的方式與祂有互動。神定以色列人的罪，耶穌也責備法利賽人，因為他們的敬拜是以人為中心。他們只有外表的儀式，但是他們的心沒有向著神。要用心

靈敬拜神，就必須與神有屬靈的關係。否則，就像關掉聲音觀看視頻一樣。所看到的動作無法傳達信息。當你主日來敬拜時，你是否帶著一顆真誠的心來的？你的唱詩和禱告能否表達你對神的讚美？當神通過信息對你說話時，你的心裡是否以「阿們」作回應？神正在尋找用心靈和誠實敬拜祂的人。那個婦人來打水滿足她身體的需要。她以多重關係來滿足她情感的需求。她參加敬拜是為了滿足她屬靈的需要。她真正的需要是親自認識神。只有耶穌才能提供這方面的需要。現在很多人都在追求成功。他們以為金錢和物質可以給他們安全感和滿足感。娛樂和友誼可以在一定程度上填補我們的孤獨。但是一會兒過後，我們又會感到無聊和空虛。在內心深處，人們都在渴望一些真實而持久的東西。在夜深人靜時，人們問自己為何存在於世上。他們在尋找生命的意義。耶穌就是答案。祂接受我們的真面目。祂肯定我們的價值，因為我們是按照神的形象被創造的兒女。祂邀請我們與祂建立永恆的關係。

3. Recommend a Better Solution 建議更好的答案

耶穌以日常的事務作為開場白。然後，祂揭開婦人內心深層的需要。接下來，耶穌向她建議一個更好的答案。讓我們繼續閱讀第 25-26 節。那時，猶太人期待彌賽亞將他們從羅馬人的壓迫中拯救出來。而撒瑪利亞人盼望的彌賽亞是以老師的身份出現。婦人以為耶穌是來自神的先知。因此她提到彌賽亞是順理成章的。另一個可能性是她只是想結束談話。她出來是要打水，她還有家務要做。但耶穌不會放過這個機會。祂告訴婦人：「妳正在尋找彌賽亞嗎？我就是彌賽亞！」婦人有什麼反應？請看第 28-30 節。她不再覺得不好意思。如果那個猶太人真的是彌賽亞，那麼每個人都應該去見祂。她的見證很簡單：「祂把我做過的事情都講出來了。」儘管她的名聲不好，村民們還是相信她的話。我們的得救見證的目的是邀請人們來看這位救主。你可能沒有任何戲劇性的經歷，比如在絕症中奇蹟般地痊癒，或者在監獄裡聽到福音。但我們都有同樣的故事，正如《奇異恩典》中的歌詞：「前我失喪，今被尋回，瞎眼今得看見。」你只需要告訴人們神是如何拯救你的。村民們出於單純的信心接受了耶穌。他們甚至要求耶穌多停留兩天，以便他們能從祂身上學到更多。第 41-42 節告訴我們結果。有更多的人相信，不僅是因為婦女的話，也是因為耶穌的話。他們明白耶穌是救世主。信心必須基於神的話語。人們必須承認自己是罪人。他們也必須承認耶穌是救主。神的話語是大有能力的，只有神才能改變人的生命。當我們分享福音時，我們必須引用一些經文。約翰福音 3:16 是其中一節你應該記住的簡單經文：神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。你可以指著你的聖經或福音單張把它讀出來。然後你解釋它的內容。由於我們的罪，我們本應該得到神的懲罰。但神如此愛我們，祂差遣耶穌到世上為我們死在十字架上。信靠耶穌的人不會面對神的審

判。相反，人們在接受耶穌的那一刻就會得到永生。相信的意思是你必須接受耶穌成為你的救主和生命的主。如果你現在做出決定，那麼你便馬上成為神的兒女。傳福音真的一點都不困難。你告訴人們你的故事，然後再講到神的故事。就像任何技巧一樣，你練習得越多，你就會變得更熟練。

CONCLUSION 結論

在那次旅途中，耶穌拯救了一個婦女和一些村民。今天，耶穌差遣我們去把祂介紹給別人。每一次相遇都是一次傳福音的機會。讓我以一個真實的救贖故事結束。羅傑剛服完兵役，他想搭順風車回家。幾十年前，搭便車很常見。羅傑提著他沉重的包走在高速公路旁。他伸出大拇指，希望有個好心的司機會載他。終於，一輛嶄新的豪華房車停下來。一個衣冠楚楚的中年男子問道：「孩子，你要去芝加哥嗎？」羅傑說他的家就在朝著那個方向的路上。那個人自我介紹為漢諾威先生。他在芝加哥開公司。他們在路上有愉快的交談。作為一名基督徒，羅傑有感動想跟漢諾威先生分享福音，但他擔心漢諾威先生的反應。隨著離家越來越近，羅傑知道快沒有機會了。他鼓起勇氣說：「漢諾威先生，我可以和你分享一些重要的事情嗎？」羅傑講完之後，他邀請漢諾威先生接待耶穌。他突然把車停下來。羅傑以為他會被踢出去。漢諾威先生哭著回答說：「這是我聽過的最美好的消息。」他低下頭接受了耶穌。五年後，羅傑結了婚，他也有自己的家庭和事業。有一天，他需要去芝加哥。羅傑決定去漢諾威先生的辦公室拜訪他。接待員告訴羅傑他無法見到漢諾威先生。但他可以和他的妻子見面。羅傑被帶到漢諾威夫人的辦公室。她問道：「你認識我先生嗎？」。羅傑告訴她搭便車的事。然後她問了當天的日期。「在途中有什麼特別的事情發生嗎？」羅傑猶豫是否應該把傳福音的事講出來。在羅傑透露細節後，漢諾威夫人便哭起來。當她回過神來時，她解釋說：「我在一個基督徒家庭長大，但我丈夫不是。這些年來，我一直為他的得救禱告，但什麼動靜也沒有。那天他送你回家後，他碰到一場嚴重的車禍，他當場去世了。從此之後，我對神感到憤怒，以為祂沒有聽我的禱告。」神對我們每個人都有一個獨特的計劃。如果你不認識耶穌，今天是你接受祂的機會。不要拖延。至於我們的弟兄姐妹，你願意把這份奇妙的救恩禮物與別人分享嗎？