



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Be1: Start1”

Ps. James Lowe- Mar. 22, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What has been one of the more rewarding endeavors you've undertaken in the past few years?
- What has been one of the more challenging things you've undertaken in the past few years?
- What was one of the most challenging but also the most rewarding things you've done in life?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Philippians 1:6 ESV *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

God has started a work in us, *and* he expects us to start a work in others. In other words, freely we have received, freely we should give. God wants us to engage in the work and ministry of evangelism and discipleship. This is the consistent teaching of the New Testament.

We have to ask ourselves if we are bearing the fruit we should be producing. We should always be looking for ways to increase our effectiveness and fruitfulness.

John 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-15 Jesus is tired, thirsty and hungry. It was most likely hot, and he had already served others extensively. But instead of choosing to ignore the woman or being irritable with her, he engaged her in a kind manner. This is more significant when we consider that she was of an ethnicity typically despised by Jesus' first century Jewish culture. She was culturally and religiously an outsider to a Jew. Furthermore, Jewish men, especially Rabbis, had little if nothing to do with women. But Jesus, who was considered by many to be a Rabbi, that is, a spiritual teacher, cared about her and started a conversation with her. His great concern was her spiritual welfare, her estrangement from God.

John 4:16-18 Jesus spoke to her things that he couldn't have known on his own. Instead, we know from other Scriptures that Jesus ministered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. God's anointing is a truth-telling anointing, and this is what Jesus did with this woman. He spoke to her honestly about her major sins, but did so in a way that wasn't demeaning. It is important to help people face the reality of what separates them from God.

John 4:19-26 Jesus also spoke to her about spiritual matters, touching on the deep intrinsic need and impetus all people have to know and worship God. In addition, he revealed himself as the means to enter into relationship with God, for he disclosed that he himself is the long awaited Messiah.

John 4:27-30, 39-42 So Jesus started a conversation with this woman, spoke the truth to her about what separates her from God, and spoke to her about entering into a relationship with God. The result was phenomenal. Not only did she believe him and so was sparked to pursue God, but she also impacted her network of relationships in her village as she told them about Jesus. Instead of continuing on his journey,

Jesus altered his plans and spent several days with them. Many of them also came to believe in Jesus as the Messiah and entered into relationship with God.

Summary

- **Speaking:** Like Jesus we need to speak to people about their lives, their faith, their spiritual needs, God's holiness and love, and his gift of Jesus Christ.
- **Sparking:** Like Jesus we can expect God to spark spiritual light in people's hearts as a consequence of our speaking the truth in love to them.
- **Starting:** Like Jesus we should be willing and ready to start ministering to those that God spiritually awakens as well as those who are in their sphere of influence. Practically, this is simply starting what we call a Life Group with them.

John 4:34 ESV *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."* Let us embrace the heart of Jesus!

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What are some effective ways we can begin and continue spiritual conversations with people?
- How should we pray to see more fruitfulness in our attempts to talk to people about the Gospel?
- Would you be interested in leading a Life Group? If so, what help do you need to start one? If not, what are the main reasons?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to open doors and give you wisdom to speak to others about spiritual issues and the Gospel.
- Ask God to open the hearts of the people we are talking to about Jesus.
- Ask God whether he wants you to start a Life Group.