

## The Kingdom's greatest need

### Opening Text: John 4:1-4

**Introduction:** the passage says that Jesus *needed* to go through Samaria. Jesus went out of his way to come to Samaria not just because Sychar was the next city in His preaching itinerary, but because of what was about to happen: one woman was about to believe in Jesus, and through her testimony, the whole city was about to come to Jesus. That is why *He needed to go through Samaria*.

### 1. The needs of Jesus

*He needed* – the *need* for people, cities and countries to come to Jesus is an ever-current necessity of the Kingdom of God.

We need to be mindful of the 'needs' of Jesus

**Philippians 2:20-21** - *<sup>20</sup> For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. <sup>21</sup> For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.*

### 2. We need to respond to that necessity

**1 Corinthians 9:16** - *For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!*

#### a) Angels can't preach the Gospel

Angels are messengers. The word *angel* in the Greek literally means *messenger*. There is, however, a message that angels can't preach: the gospel. That is our message.

**Acts 10: 1-6** – *...he will tell you what you must do*

**Acts 5:19-20** – *“But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and said, Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life”*

#### b) Even Jesus, in His resurrected state chose someone to preach to Saul

**Acts 9:6** - *So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

The message of the gospel is the privilege of the church. This necessity is laid upon us!

#### c) Jesus needed to go through Samaria

In many ways that was unfamiliar territory for Jesus: Samaritans were a different people with a different culture, religiously different etc. **The necessity of going to places other than our country of origin, our people group, our culture, our language etc is still a current necessity of the kingdom of God.**

That is, in fact, the very nature of the mandate of the church:

**Mark 16:15-17:** *<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

All the world and every creature!

**Acts 1:8** - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**Proverbs 25:25** - *As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.*

### **3. We need to respond wholeheartedly**

Let us go back to **1 Corinthians 9:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.*

We need to respond willingly – not just out of a cold sense of duty.

**Colossians 3:23-24** - *<sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

**Ephesians 6:6-8** - *<sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

These 3 passages mention a reward. That reward is reserved to those who respond willingly, from the heart and with good will.

**Let us respond passionately, willingly and wholeheartedly!**