

Don't Let These Man-Made Barriers Hinder Your Call

Jesus' longest recorded conversation was with an unnamed woman at a well in Samaria. She's any of us who has ever felt less than or left out. Marginalized or mocked. Discriminated against or deemed unworthy. When she encountered Jesus, she left her water jar and bravely shared her story so an entire community could meet Jesus. Jesus invites us to leave behind anything that's holding us back and follow Him. When we refuse to cower to the voice of comparison, we change our culture.

Angela's three-part series, *Find Your Fearless*, introduces you to ordinary women of the Bible who dared to do extraordinary things, featured in her most recent Bible study, *Fearless*.

"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to remain with them. And He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. They said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this Man is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world'" (John 4:39-42).

The Samaritan woman didn't just leave her water jar at the well that day. She let go of the sin that held her captive and the cycle of comparison that held her back. She could've weaponized that moment in retaliation against those who had hurt her and kept it to herself. But the instant she realized Jesus was the Messiah, and experienced the truth of His love, she didn't think twice about sharing it with others. Her entire community urged Him to stay with them for two days. We can follow her lead and invite Jesus to stay.

She stood strong as a powerful witness and the first female

evangelist recorded in the New Testament. The book of Acts continues what she started. Four years later, Philip, the evangelist, walked through the door she opened to bring salvation to many in the region.

Who needs to hear your story? If you've had an encounter with Christ, bring someone else along with you. Don't get derailed by meaningless arguments: Stick to your story. Tell people how Jesus changed your life and become a catalyst for change in theirs. Raw emotions can hijack our best intentions and build barriers between us and others. Jesus never allowed man-made barriers to keep Him from divine appointments.

When we refuse to cower to the voice of comparison, we change a culture. Let's go out of our way to reach people instead of going around them. When we stop avoiding what we don't understand and start building relationships, we'll bring people to Christ. It all begins with a conversation.

We don't have to wait until we've gotten it all together. None of us do. Bring all the things. Talk it out so it doesn't take you out. He'll change us in His presence so we can become a catalyst for change in our world.

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