

"WITNESSING TO CHRIST"**Introduction**

1. The conversation of Christ with the woman of Samaria
2. Why did she forget her water-pot?
3. A wise way to think of this.
DOCTRINE: Those who know Christ should tell others

1. THINGS YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A GOOD WITNESS

- 1) We distinguish these two things:
 - (i) office in the church
 - (ii) personal and private witness
OBSERVE: Rules govern one, not the other
- 2) What are not necessary:
 - (i) to be a man: women + children may
 - (ii) to be ordained: this is for office
 - (iii) to have some academic qualification
ILLUSTRATION: Spurgeon's theology
 - (iv) to be a Christian of many years' experience
ILLUSTRATION: this Woman of Samaria
OBSERVE: Perhaps we tend to be too bound and gagged by unwritten rules

2. THINGS YOU DO NEED TO BE A TRUE WITNESS

- 1) To be correct in your view of Christ: "Is not this the Christ?"
(Explain)
OBSERVE: The only true "witness" must be clear on this fundamental point.
- 2) You must have a personal experience of the saving power of Christ: "all that ever I did..."
ILLUSTRATION: The way she came to know this.

- 3) You need to have a good conscience and at least a measure of Assurance:
ILLUSTRATION: "Five husbands" – but now at peace
- 4) You need to value the gospel for what it is: "the power of God" to sinners.
OBSERVE: See Paul's reasoning in Romans 10:
- 5) You need to love fellow-sinners:
 - (i) to see them as Christ saw them:
 - (ii) to recall God's grace and power:
ILLUSTRATION: "...from the very stones"
 - (iii) to long to see them changed

3. ENCOURAGEMENTS TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

- 1)
 - (i) Soul-winning is rare work: "the harvest is great": Mt. 9:36-38
APPLICATION: Not many are doing it
 - (ii) Soul-winning will be rewarded: Jn. 4:36
 - (iii) It is wise work: Proverbs 11:30
 - (iv) It is a blessed work: James 5:20
 - (v) It is happy work, even though hard.
ILLUSTRATION: Paul over Onesimus
- 2) Have a plan:
 - (i) books that you might give – or tracts – or New Testaments...
 - (ii) cultivate friendships so as to have opportunities to speak of Christ
 - (iii) befriend people to try to get them under the sound of the gospel.

CONCLUSION

What success God may give you: see v.39-43:
"Many more believed".

PSALM**138: 1 – 5****71: 16 – 20****51: 11 - 15**