

Date :21 Oct 2018
Theme : Current social issues
Topic : Content to Conversation – Speaking Christ and Kingdom values amidst controversy
Key passage : John 4:9-10

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you know the gift of God and who it is that ask you for a drink, and you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

Introduction

In John 4, our Lord Jesus Christ establishes a conversation with the Samaritan woman despite the prevailing climate of racial stereotypes, cultural conflicts and the chauvinist social hierarchy which discriminates against woman. His dialogue shows He is interested in her opinion and that He treats her as a person (despite her rather irregular, shady personal life), equating her status to that of any Jewish man.

She turns out to be an intelligent conversationalist and (convicted of her personal need and revelation of the Messiah) returns to her community as Jesus’ messenger John 4:39.

Unfortunately, many of us feel we do not wish to speak up on controversial issues so as not to offend our friends or we feel inadequate to do so.

How do we turn controversial issues as “landing points” for the Gospel?

E.G. When societal ways show disrespect of our religious icon

(Conversation over Andres Serrano’s art)

Why not just keep quiet?

1. An ambassador brings the ways of his nation to other nations.

... we are ... Christ’s ambassadors ... 2 Corinthians 5:20

E.G. When our friends target Christians’ intolerance and bigotry

(Conversation about research on prejudice)

2. When our friends push a value system that is at war with God’s kingdom values

(Conversation with Minnie and Berry)

How could we challenge our friends’ value system?

· Stories (Gianna Jessen, Katy Faust, Millie Fontana)

· Who loses? Children’s rights (versus adult desire)

Application

- Share a time(s) when you felt intimidated or were afraid to speak up for Jesus.

- What are some ways you can prepare yourself to use current social issues to enter into conversations for kingdom values?