

LET EACH ONE REACH ONE!

(John 4:4-10)

Our Lord Jesus has commissioned His church with a world-wide and global mission (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15). Though none of us can single-handedly reach the entire world for Christ, all of us can reach at least one person for Christ. Since the kingdom of God advances one soul at a time, consider this spiritual challenge: “*Let each one reach one!*” Will you commit to pray for and witness to at least one person this year who needs to trust our Lord Jesus for salvation? As we reflect on Jesus’ evangelistic encounter with one Samaritan woman, we’ll learn three essential requirements of personal evangelism that must deepen our commitment to reach out to at least one person for Christ this year.

1. Personal evangelism requires a _____.

Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman was not a chance meeting. It was rather a divinely appointed engagement. Jesus had to go through Samaria not only to display His particular love for this individual sinner, but also to fulfill His divine calling to seek and save the lost (John 4:4-5; Luke 19:10). Jesus cared enough for this woman that He wearied Himself to personally bring the gospel to her (John 4:6). He went out of His way to find this one particular person to show her her greatest need. Such loving concern shows that Jesus finds His utmost joy in the salvation of one individual soul (Luke 15:10). One great motivation for the task of personal evangelism is realizing how much Jesus sacrificed to care for our own soul. This realization must move our hearts to embrace this missionary challenge: “*The conversion of one soul is worth the labor of a life. Hold on therefore; be steady in your work and leave the result to God.*”

2. Personal evangelism requires _____ for the cause of the gospel.

Our Lord Jesus crossed certain barriers in order to reach out to this Samaritan woman. First, He crossed a first-century cultural barrier when a Jewish rabbi like Him risked his own reputation to converse with a woman (John 4:7-9). Second, Jesus crossed a racial and ethnic barrier in light of the long-standing animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans (John 4:9). Third, our Lord overcame a social barrier and a religious taboo when He was willing to take a drink from the vessel of this Samaritan woman which was regarded as ceremonially unclean (John 4:9). Jesus cared enough for the soul of this woman that He never hesitated to break all these barriers in order to bring her His saving gospel. In the same way, we must also cross barriers to reach out to people with the saving message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Personal evangelism requires _____.

In communicating the gospel to this Samaritan woman, our Lord Jesus emphasized two foundational truths. First, Jesus said, “*If you knew the gift of God*” (John 4:10). Unbelievers must know that God is offering the free gift of eternal life to those who will receive it by faith. Second, Jesus said, “*and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink’*” (John 4:10). Unbelievers must also know who Jesus is, that He is the only divine Savior and Messiah sent by God to grant eternal life to those who would repent of their sins and trust in Him alone for eternal salvation (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 12:3; John 4:14).
