

LIVE OAK CHURCH

Contending For The Faith How To Make A Difference In Your Lifetime

November 9, 2025

John 4:7-26; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

When You Review Your Life, Do You Ever Ask The Question, "Have I Made A Difference?"

I. Do you want to make a difference?

- A. These individuals often find
 - 1. Purpose in life
 - 2. Success in life
 - a. Because they know their purpose
 - 3. Satisfaction in life
 - 4. Hope in life
 - 5. Joy in life
- B. Do you want to make a difference for eternity?
 - 1. Does it matter to you where people spend eternity?
 - 2. Does it matter to you what people know about Messiah?
 - 3. Does it matter to you if a life is wasted?

II. How does a person make a difference for eternity?

- A. By valuing people
 - 1. By letting them know you care
 - 2. By seeking to make their life better
 - 3. By sharing God's gift
- B. By giving respect
 - 1. Respectful insight as to who is truly important: the Messiah
 - 2. What is truly important? Your relationship to God

III. Jesus (contended for the faith) valued people

- A. How do we know Jesus valued people?
 - 1. John tells us
 - 2. Compare Nicodemus to the woman at the well
- B. Jesus "had" to pass through Samaria (to encounter the Samaritan woman)
 - 1. Samaria's "backstory"
 - 2. Social, cultural, & religious rejects
- C. Jesus wanted to enter her world
- D. Jesus knows (deep down) everyone wants to know God
- E. The problem many have
 - 1. Confused
 - 2. The "why" factor
 - 3. The "hurt" factor
 - 4. The "intimidated" factor
 - 5. Too removed/too many bad things
 - 6. Too self centered

- 7. Suppressing the truth
- F. Jesus doesn't write people off

IV. Jesus pursued her & He pursues you

- A. Sometimes Jesus finds us in our shame
- B. Sometimes Jesus finds us in our brokenness
- C. Sometimes Jesus finds us in our loneliness
- D. Sometimes Jesus finds us in our humility

V. The interaction

- A. He asks for a drink of water
- B. He declares the gift He offers
- C. She doesn't "get it" at first
- D. Jesus explains the water He offers
- E. He makes an inquiring request
 - 1. "Go call your husband"
 - 2. "I have no husband"
 - 3. "You have had 5 husbands, the man you have now is not your husband"
- F. She needs to face the pain inside to appreciate what He offers
- G. Jesus draws out of her the confession of what she thinks disqualifies her
 - 1. God finds us in our shame & then brings grace
 - 2. God will take your lowest point and turn it into your testimony of grace

VI. So how does Jesus contend for the faith?

- A. He meets you where you are
 - 1. He met her where she was
 - a. Alone
 - b. Broken
 - c. Feeling like a failure
- B. He reminded her that God is pursuing her
- C. Lets her unpack her pain, her grief, & her sense of failure
- D. Lets her know that He values her
 - 1. God hasn't written her off
- E. Lets her know He accepts her
- F. Lets her know that He is the Messiah
- G. That He offers Eternal Life

VII. The results

- A. She believed
- B. She helped others to believe
- C. Jesus stayed with the Samaritans 2 days
- D. They encountered Jesus

Go Contend Like Jesus