



April 7, 2022

Now It's Your Turn

And 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 had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." (John 4:39–42)

One of our problems—and I am particularly speaking to those of us who spend a lot of time in churches—is that we think that experiences like these are only for very special people. But that is not so. Such experiences are for everyone. God will reveal himself to you. All of us can come to trust God as Job did, if we want it and if we seek it. In this regard, it is important to recognize that Job, Jacob, and others did not arrive at their relentless faith in God's all-sufficiency simply by trying to trust in the greatness of God. It was the result of two things: they sought the Lord and the Lord showed up.

It is the same with you and me. You should not try to do this in your own power. Seek the Lord and wait for him to show up. Set time aside to devote yourself to prayer and other spiritual disciplines that will strengthen your faith and prepare you to receive from him. Listen for God when you pray. Watch for him and wait on him throughout the day. If the Lord does not show up when and how you think he should, you must not be upset with him or with yourself. Just keep seeking. When we begin to seek the Lord, some things must change—some outside of us and some inside of us—before we can bear the vision of God. These changes can take time, and God, in his mercy, gives them time.

We have this promise from Jesus: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23). Jesus means that he and the Father will be moving through and about us in our lives. He will speak to us. He will act on our behalf, and we will know the presence of God in our lives. If you are in doubt about this I beg you not to say, "Oh, well, I'm just supposed to believe." Do not do that. Seek the Lord. Ask him to reveal himself to you and give you the faith of sufficiency that knows no bounds.

Of course, it may be that you will not recognize him as you begin. We all have certain expectations and ideas about God and what it would be like for him to show up. This is what Jesus was getting at when he asked his disciples, "Who do men say I am?" When they gave the various answers, he then put the light on them: "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27, 29). He asks this same question of us, and does so by revealing himself to us in ways we do not expect. Who do you think he is? God will not try to fit within your expectations, but he will reveal something precious to you.

Reflect: *If you want to have a deeper, more trusting faith, seek God and be prepared to go with him. He will bring you into a faith of sufficiency as he reveals himself uniquely to you. No more of this "I heard about it with my ears." That is where faith begins, but not where it ends. As with those who lived in the little Samaritan village of Sychar, in the passage above, we can move from a faith based on hearsay to one based on experience (John 4:1–42). They had been told that Jesus was a prophet and possibly the Messiah by a woman who had encountered him at a well. Intrigued, they went to him and found out for themselves with this result.*

(Q) Consider those who intrigue you by their faith in Jesus. What is it about their life and relationship with Him that is drawing you into a deeper interaction with Jesus for yourself? How would you, as did those Samaritans, go directly to Jesus and find for yourself a faith that is based on experience - not one simply based on hearsay?