



Customized Conversations

Jesus was a master at starting spiritual conversations with intriguing comments that fit the setting and situation.

John 4:6-7, 10 & 14, NIV

...Jesus, tired as he was from his journey, sat down by the well...When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?...If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water...whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Getting At The Core Problem

Lost people aren't ready to hear the good news about Jesus unless they understand and accept the bad news about their sin.

John 4:16-18, NIV

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true."

Time To Change The Subject!

The woman at the well quickly decided to steer the conversation away from her sinful past and her present immoral lifestyle.

John 4:19-20, NLT

"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshipped?"

Jesus Followed Her On Her Detour!

He actually addressed the controversial "hot topic" — even though it diverted their dialog away from the core issue of her own sin and need.

John 4:21, & 23-26, NLT

Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem...the time is coming—indeed, it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth...For God is spirit, so those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Navigating Detours

- You can't ignore or evade "hot topics"—but try not to get completely sidetracked.
- When the conversation *strays* off-course, don't stay off-course! Find a path back to the main road: Jesus!

What About Jesus?

The goal is to help lost people grow in their understanding of who Jesus really is!

Notice what happened with the Samaritan woman and her townsfolk:

John 4:9, 15, 19, 29, & 42, NIV
You are a Jew...Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty...I can see that you are a prophet...Could this be the Messiah?...this man really is the Savior of the world.

What About Jesus?

We can even customize the conversation about him on Palm Sunday!

The *gentle* Jesus made a "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem:

- Riding a donkeyy
- Eyes filled with tears
- On a mission to make peace
- To shoulder the world's sins
- Anticipated being crushed

What About Jesus?

The *severe* Jesus will someday make a "triumphal entry" into the world—at his second coming. (Revelation 19)

- Riding a war horse
- Eyes filled with fire
- On a mission to defeat evil
- To shoulder the world's government
- Will do the crushing

**The Gospel
Good News Now...Bad News Later!**

Each of us must follow the *gentle* Jesus now--or face the *severe* Jesus later!

John 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:10 & John 3:36, NIV

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him...Jesus rescues us from the coming wrath...Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

What Will You Do With Jesus?

Someday, "at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."
(Philippians 2:10-11)

- Some will bow/confess **GRATEFULLY** to Jesus, their gentle Savior!
- Some will bow/confess **GRUDGINGLY** to Jesus, their severe Judge!

In which group will YOU be?
