

FIVE THINGS NECESSARY FOR CONVERSION OF THE LOST

John 4:1-26

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: What does it take for a person to come to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved? Is it repeating a prayer? Is it shaking the hand of a pastor? Is it filling out a card? Is it raising one's hand during an invitation? Is it being baptized? Just what must happen before a person can be saved?

I. ONE WILL NEVER BE SAVED UNTIL HE/SHE MEETS THE LORD JESUS PERSONALLY

1. *John 4:1-3*

2. Jesus left Judea those who were not interested in Him.

- If a person dies without being saved, there is no one to blame but him/herself.

- *Proverbs 1:23-31*

3. One's unbelief will in no way affect the purpose of God.

- *Romans 3:3-4*

- God's purpose of saving those who will believe in Jesus does not depend upon the consent, will or work of any person.

- Some will never believe, but some will.

- In God's time, the Lord Jesus will come to a lost sinner and make Himself known.

- *John 4:4-6*

- Jesus meeting the woman at the well was not a chance meeting.

- Jesus went to the well to meet a certain person, He went seeking one who would come to believe in Him.

- Jesus arranged it so He was alone with the one He had come to save.

- Jesus sent His disciples into town to buy food.

- *John 4:7-9*

- The Samaritan woman would have never come to the Lord Jesus Christ if Jesus had not first come to where she would be for the purpose of bringing her to salvation.

- No person will ever come to Jesus unless He steps in to that person's life.

II. ONCE A PERSON MEETS JESUS, AN INTEREST IS CREATED

1. *John 4:10-14*

- Jesus started the conversation by asking the woman for a drink which brought a response from her.

- Salvation is the Gift of God.

- It is not a present, not an offer, not an opportunity, BUT a GIFT.

- Jesus Christ is God's gift and through Jesus is given the gift of eternal life.

- One will never be saved, or come to the Lord Jesus Christ until he/she learns of God's gift.

- God gives, believers in Jesus receive.

- People don't know about the gift, nor do they know the Lord Jesus who gives the Gift.

- Jesus deals with the woman at the well on the basis of WHO, not what will give eternal life.

- Salvation is to be had for the asking.

- Salvation is so close - *Romans 10:8-9; John 7:37-38; Luke 11:9-13*

- People are totally ignorant of spiritual things until the Holy Spirit reveals, teaches them.

- *1 Corinthians 2:9-14*

- The woman at the well talked about spiritual things which she knew nothing about. She had no idea who she was talking to or what she was talking about. *John 4:11-14*

- Jesus tells the woman at the well that earthly things are but vain, unsatisfying things.
 - "...*Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again...*"
 - Materialism, wealth, position, fame, honor, religion, philosophy, lusts, pleasure are all earthly, empty things.
 - The person saved, reborn, receives the "water of life" which Jesus was telling the woman at the well about.
 - A person will never come to the Lord Jesus Christ until He first comes to that person and creates a spiritual thirst which cannot be satisfied with earthly, material things.

III. ONE WILL NOT COME TO THE LORD JESUS UNTIL HE FIRST EXPOSES ONE'S SINS

1. Before a person comes to the Lord Jesus for salvation, mercy, he/she must first be made to know and acknowledge his/her sin before God.
 - ***John 4:14-18***
 - Jesus opened up to her what she thought was hidden.
 - People love darkness rather than light, especially about sin.
 - When one's sinful life is exposed by Jesus, he/she will immediately try to turn attention to something else.
 - ***John 4:19-20***
 - Having her sinful life revealed, the woman at the well began to talk to Jesus in a different tone. She began to be respectful to Him.
 - Jesus did not argue with her, He proved His point about her life and need for a change. He destroyed her excuses and lies.

IV. ONE WILL NEVER COME TO THE LORD JESUS UNTIL ALL ALL ATTEMPTS TO HIDE FROM GOD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED

1. Every person has excuses, reasons, etc., for his/her sinful life.
 - Remember Adam and Eve's excuses for why they ate of the forbidden tree? Pass the blame.
 - Jesus simply told the woman the truth about her sinful life and it penetrated her heart.
 - ***John 4:21-24***
 - God is looking for sinners to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.
 - ***Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:16-22***
2. Before a person can come to the Lord Jesus Christ, He must first come to that person, create an interest in the things of God, expose that person's sins, destroy all excuses and reasons for that sinful life.

V. THE LORD JESUS MUST MAKE HIMSELF KNOW THAT EACH PERSON INDIVIDUALLY

1. ***John 4:25-26***
 - Slowly the Word of God did it's work in the woman at the well.
 - The woman was moved from her refuge of lies and excuses for her sinful life into the arms of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - As soon as the woman at the well expressed a desire for "living water" Jesus told her it was Him - "***I am!***" - "***I am HE!***"
 - The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ is what it takes to bring a person to conversion, salvation.
 - Once Jesus is revealed to a person and comes into that person, that is enough! Nothing more is needed.
 - ***Matthew 11:28-30***

CONCLUSION:

1. Before a person can be saved, Jesus must be there first. Jesus must take the first step.
2. Once Jesus has met that person, that person must then have an interest in Jesus.
3. Once a person has met Jesus and developed an interest in Jesus, his/her sins must be exposed and acknowledged.
4. Once a person has met Jesus and has had his/her sins exposed he/she must then stop trying to make excuses and trying to hide his/her sins.
5. A person cannot be converted, born again, saved until Jesus has made Himself known personally to that person so that that person has no other choice but to accept or reject Jesus Christ as his/her only way of ever receiving God's Gift of eternal life.
6. Repeating a prayer, signing a card, shaking a pastor's hand, being baptized, being a Church member does not bring salvation.
7. There is but ONE way to receive God's gift of eternal life and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ.