

SECOND-HAND FAITH

John 4:39-42

Introduction: A woman met Jesus at a well and through her encounter with Him, she became a believer in Jesus and hurried off to tell the other towns-people what Jesus had told her. Many became excited and believed what she said and had high thoughts about Jesus. They then hurried to the well to see for themselves this man, Jesus, and many became believers in Him, not for what the woman had told them, but for what they had experienced for themselves. Only after a personal encounter with Jesus did they experience saving faith.

I. THERE IS MORE THAN ONE KIND OF FAITH

1. The Samaritans' first faith about Jesus was founded in the words of a woman of their town.
 - Jesus had revealed to the woman at the well her secret past/
 - Some of the townspeople had a "speculative" faith, wanting and willing to hear more, a theoretical faith.
 - In today's time:
 - We look back at all the prophecies Jesus made.
 - We look back at all the miracles Jesus did.
 - We declare that because of all of these things, Jesus must be the Messiah.
 - We hear sermons to that effect, we have Sunday School lessons to that effect.
 - People develop a "head" faith about Jesus, but head faith doesn't save.
2. The Samaritans' second faith, the real, saving faith, was founded on their own, personal experience with Jesus.
 - Jesus stayed two days with them.
 - Jesus revealed to them that they were lost and that they needed salvation. Jesus had come to seek and to save them and the world.
 - They decided to trust, rely on Jesus and not on their great mountain or past laws.
 - They believed this time in their hearts and confessed with their lips.
 - Saving faith is different from speculative, theoretical or head faith.

II. ONE MUST BE AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCE

1. Distress, uneasiness, restlessness comes to those who are not sure about their faith.
 - People have their own ideas about "saving faith" and have made their own changes with some making saving faith too difficult and some making saving faith too easy/low.
 - A lack of assurance of having saving faith comes to those who have listened to man's changes and adjustments and definitions of saving faith.
 - God hasn't changed nor has His requirements of saving faith. One must believe in his/her heart and confess with his/her lips the Lord Jesus Christ. Repent, trust, surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ is God's only way to obtain HIS salvation.
 - Salvation is NOT man's idea, concept or his doings. God is the author and finisher.

2. Some fail to see any difference at all and have not exercised "real" faith, there are not truly saved.
 - Some call intellectual, theoretical faith as saving faith, however it must be remembered that Satan also knows Jesus but is damned.
 - Some "take for granted" their salvation, for they were born into a Christian family, they grew up in a Church atmosphere, they have faithfully attended services, they are educated and they have never been in any sort of trouble and they give regularly to the church, etc.
 - Some think that they may not be as "moral" as they ought to be, but they've done nothing really bad, therefore they are still saved.

3. Each person must believe in Jesus Christ by FIRST HAND experience and not through or by any other cause or reason, to do so is "second-hand" faith and that is NOT SAVING FAITH.

CONCLUSION:

1. Take a look at what YOU are calling "saving" faith. Do not deceive yourself.
 - Examine your faith. What kind is it? Is it First Hand faith, or second hand faith?

2. If saved and you know it, then share it!
 - An immoral, adulterous Samaritan woman was saved and immediately hurried off to bring many others to meet Jesus and many of them were saved.
 - Let each of us, in our own life's walk, declare what Jesus Christ is to us.