

# ***Basics... Why Our Church Exists!***

## **Part 1 - Reaching Starts with Us!**

**John 4:3-15 - September 13, 2009**

After winning the Superbowl in 1967, Vince Lombardi already a living legend, addressed his team at their first team meeting of the spring. Bob Kimbrell tells the rest, quoting from his Book on Management:

*All the players knew that at the first team meeting, the legendary coach would waste no time getting straight to the point. Many of the men, half Lombardi's age and twice his size, were openly fearful, dreading the encounter. The coach did not disappoint them, and, in fact, delivered his message in one of the great one-liners of all time.*

*Football in hand, the great coach walked to the front of the room, took several seconds to look over the assemblage in silence, held out the pigskin in front of him, and said, "**Gentlemen, this is a football.**"*

*In only five words, Lombardi communicated his point: We're going to start with the basics and make sure we're executing all the fundamentals."* The quote was all about getting back to basics. And it is true with reference to more than football. Whenever you find yourself floundering... get back to basics. If you are not growing... get back to basics. If you don't know what to do next... get back to basics.

**Transition:** Church, this is the Bible. This morning we are starting a new series called Basics. We are going to get back to the basics... the fundamentals. We want to look at our church and answer the following questions:

- What is the mission of the church? Why does it exist? Our Church?
- What is the purpose of the church? Is there more than one? Where in the Bible do we see these purposes?

- Can't I be a Christian on my own? Why should we even go to church? Why do I need the Church?
- What are we to do as a church? How are we to do it?

## I. God's Plan... Why the church?

### A. God **established** the church

1. It is his idea! He chose the church to work out his purposes for mankind and to change the world.
2. Matthew 16:18 *"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."*
  - The church is on the offensive, not the defensive. If we are doing what we are commanded, nothing can stop us!
  - His plan includes expanding the church. That is why we want to grow numerically and spiritually.

### B. We **experience** the Church

1. We are the church and we need each other... the Body of Christ. We will talk more next week!
2. Heb. 10:24-25 *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*
3. We are a family not an educational institution. The church isn't about a building, it is about people.

## II. God's Purpose... An Overview (Acts 2:42-47)

I believe that church exists to meet 5 purposes. I didn't make them up. They come right from Acts 2:42-47. I believe it a model worthy of following today.

*<sup>42</sup>They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all those who had believed were together and had all things in*

common; <sup>45</sup>and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A. **REACH**... God's **purpose** to live for!

*"Added to their numbers daily, those that were being saved"*

***Reaching our community and the world through evangelism and missions.***

B. **CONNECT**... God's **people** to live with!

*"devoted to the fellowship...all the believers were together...they ate together"*

***Connecting through authentic, Biblical fellowship***

C. **GROW**... God's **principles** to live by!

*"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching".*

***Growing through discipleship and the study of God's Word***

D. **SERVE**... God's **profession** to live out!

*"They gave to anyone as he had need"*

***Serving through ministry and acts of compassion.***

E. **WORSHIP**... God's **power** to live on!

*They devoted themselves to...breaking bread and prayers... praising God*

***Worshipping God by honoring Him with our lives***

Transition: Today we are focusing on the first purpose... Reach!

### III. **REACH**...

*"Added to their numbers daily, those that were being saved"*

A. Our Definition: **Reaching our community and the world through evangelism and missions.**

1. Sharing Christ with our friends and neighbors!

2. Key Words: Evangelism, Sharing, Outreach, Mission

## B. God's purpose to live for

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15)*

1. Come and see (attraction) and Go and tell (proclamation) are both a part of Biblical evangelism.
2. Note: To all Jesus says "Come" and to believers he says "GO!"

## C. You were made for a Mission... Sharing the love of God

*Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

You were made for a mission. God is at work in the world, and he wants you to join him. God wants you to share His love where you are. As a student, mother, teacher, salesman, manager, or whatever you do, God wants you to reach out to the people in your life. That might mean inviting a friend to church or showing love to those in need around you.

God invites you to participate in the greatest, largest, most diverse, and most significant cause in history – his kingdom. The opportunities for normal, everyday Christians to become involved in short-term international missions are now limitless. Every corner of the world is available to you. You were saved to serve and made to go out and spread the Good News.

## IV. Global Ministries

In our Church we see "reaching" falling into these 5 areas...

### A. Community Impact: Mark Ponds

1. Food Pantry:
2. CPC: Community Pregnancy Center: 1900
3. ACTION: Serve Day... 55 people: \$1500

### B. Missions: David and Rebecca Olson

1. 3 missionaries

2. See insert

C. Church Planting: Matt Larson

1. Anthem Church

2. \$200 a month

D. Outreach and Evangelism: Rich Saiki

1. Christmas Eve Services

2. Moorpark Days

3. Serve Day

E. Denominational Support: all of us!

V. Jesus is our Example (John 4:3-15)

A. Background (v. 3-6)

1. Jesus had left Judea to go to Galilee and the shortest way to do that was to go through Samaria, which normally a good Jew would take the “long” way around.

2. History of Hostility

- In 722 BC the Assyrians had captured the North Kingdom. They transported the population back to Assyria resulting in inter marriage and thus the loss of racial purity. These “half breeds” were considered to be “less than” the full-blooded Jewish brethren. Example: Native American Indians intermarrying with the settlers, or interracial marriage of varying ethnic groups of our day.
- In fact in a strict Jewish household a funeral is carried out if one marries a Gentile.
- The Southern kingdom (only 2 tribes) stayed pure after their capture in 586 BC by the Babylonians

- They came back to build the walls in Ezra and Nehemiah's time (450 BC). The Samaritans of the north offered to help, but were rejected and thus the "feud" began! Hatfields and the McCoys in Kentucky history.
  - Manasseh a Jew married Sanballet's daughter (a Samaritan) and founded a rival religious system on Mt. Gerizim
3. By Jesus day the hostilities ran so hot that, it makes stories like this one and the Good Samaritan even more remarkable. Jesus reached out across all boundaries!
  4. It was at Jacob's well in Samaria that He is tired and wiped out. It was a 3 day trip. He encounters a woman in the 6<sup>th</sup> hour or 12 noon... the hottest part of the day.
  5. Because she was a prostitute, she went during the heat of the day. I am sure she was filled with despair, and was disillusioned. Life hadn't gone as she planned. She engages her in conversation even though he is wiped out.

#### B. [The Encounter \(v. 7-9\)](#)

1. It would have been easy to ignore her. He could have been focused on more pressing agenda items!
2. "Give me a drink". His request is very surprising.
  - Men generally didn't speak to women in public settings... especially religious leaders.
  - Race: Jews wanted nothing to do with Samaritans.
  - She was an outcast/prostitute as we come to find out.
  - Drinking out of the same cup was considered an abomination. (Ex. Like drinking of off someone's coke can when they have mono!)
  - Jesus wasn't afraid of public opinions! The Pharisees had they seen it would be clucking their tongues!

3. Notice God’s timing. An hour either way, they would have missed each other entirely. God sets up “divine appointments” so you can share your faith. I have had several opportunities this past week, in dealing with my mother!
4. I am sure the disciples would not have reached out to her. They were out getting food. Jesus is preparing them to deal with their prejudice and bias.
5. Notice the contrast with chapter 3 and 4 between his dealings with Nicodemus and the woman here.

<b>Nicodemus</b>	<b>Woman</b>
Jew	Samaritan
Man	Woman
Spiritually Learned	Spiritually Ignorant
High class	Outcast
Recognized Christ	Thought he was a traveler
Wealthy	Poor

### C. The Conversation (v.10-15)

1. Jesus had a way of getting people interested in spiritual things. Living water was a hook: I am sure he hated doing this and Jesus makes a pretty intriguing comment.
2. v. 11: The well is 100-150 feet deep and fed by an underground fresh water spring. She is confused. He has no bucket or rope.
3. v. 12: How can you get water without a bucket? You are no better than Jacob! Are you claiming more wisdom than Jacob? Anybody with spiritual insight would have known what Jesus is alluding to. She obviously didn’t have a clue. She was “unchurched”!

4. v. 13-15: He is making a spiritual offer not a physical one.
5. Note the progression in her understanding of who Jesus is by the use of her names for Him!
  - v. 9 Jew
  - v. 11 Sir
  - v. 19 Prophet
  - v. 25 Messiah
  - v. 26 Christ
6. You have to care about people to engage them in conversation. People are open to talk about what they believe and why!

D. [Video Clip: Penn Gillette](#)

### **Table Talk**

1. What principles can you “glean” from Jesus’ interactions with the woman at the well?
2. Why is it important to reach others for Christ?
3. How often do you engage others in “spiritual” conversations?
4. What is your biggest “fear” in telling others about Jesus?