

A divine appointment: when coincidence is the plan of Providence
(Jn 4.1-26; 01-24-21am)

Central point: All spiritual conversations should find their center in the person and work of Christ.

I. A conversation with a goal in mind (1-10)

Jesus ignores social barriers for the sake of the gospel

Jesus guides the conversation in the right direction without being forceful or harsh

II. A conversation about greatest needs (11-19)

Jesus exalts Himself while being patient with the woman's understanding of her spiritual heritage

Jesus is not afraid to use unfamiliar terms in order to guide the woman's attention to more urgent needs

Jesus speaks in words or phrases that connect the woman to her surroundings and her situation

Jesus calmly, but intentionally, addresses the woman's lifestyle – in order to draw attention to her sin

Jesus uses the woman's words about her religion to steer the conversation towards the truth about God

III. A conversation about genuine worship (20-26)

Jesus uses what the woman already knows about God to guide her to a more accurate understanding

Jesus teaches the woman to think rightly about worship because God desires her to worship Him

Four ways to apply those lessons:

1. Use your normal routines of life to look for sharing encounters:
Trip to grocery store; workout at the gym; lunch break at work – divine appointments can be anywhere
2. Avoid discussing which religion/denomination is better – show how Bible focuses on Jesus & the gospel
3. Use your conversations to help unbelievers see their need to be saved (esp. if helping them in some way)
4. Discover what they know about matters of faith/religion & guide them to a greater knowledge about Jesus

Principle: Start where they are; help them see where they need to be; then, persuade them to believe