



# Mission Minded Disciples

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 John 4:4-26, 39-42

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Today we are highlighting the ministry of the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** – usually referred to simply as **LWML**. The LWML is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This group of Lutheran women are mission minded disciples who have a compassion for the lost. **For over 75 years, this organization has collected more than \$100,000,000 in loose change, which they call "mites", for mission work in 43 countries!**



These Lutheran Women in Mission focus on three things: (1) affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, (2) encouraging and equipping women to live out their

Christian lives in active mission ministries and (3) to support global missions. **All women of the congregation and their friends are invited to come to their meetings, to meet new people and to support mission work!**

**The L.W.M.L. ladies remind us that we all are missionaries; we are all witnesses to God's grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.**

Today we saw Jesus use His **grace and mercy** with the **Samaritan woman** at the well. We heard the story today in our Gospel lesson.

Jesus has sent his disciples into town for supplies, and he was planning to take a nap by a quiet well in the middle of the day. But soon a woman from the town came to draw water. Jesus skips his nap and uses this as an opportunity to reach out to her with His **grace and mercy**.

It turns out that Samaritan woman has had quite a life. The story indicates that she has few – if any – friends. She is confused about religion, and she has all kinds of questions. In addition, she is living together with some guy,

after being married 5 times before! The text indicates that she is **lonely, confused and broken; and living in rebellion to God and His Word**. Sin has taken a heavy toll on this woman.

But Jesus is gentle and patient with her. He is gracious and merciful, *just as He is with each of us*. Jesus listens to her, and He speaks the truth to her. He exposes her sin, and reveals that He is the Savior, the one God sent for her.

The Lord opens her heart, and she is converted. She believes that Jesus is the Savior of the world!

**The Lord does the same thing with you!** He is gentle and patient with you; He treats you with grace and deals with you in mercy. He is patient and kind with you. Through His powerful Word, He exposes your sin and leads you away from it. He then reveals to you the Good News that He is the Savior of the world. You learn and understand that His death was a payment for your sin, and that you have forgiveness and eternal life in His resurrection from the dead. He creates faith within you so that you know and believe that He is the Savior of the world! Like the Samaritan woman at the well, the Lord opens your heart, and you are converted. You believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world! **This faith grows strong and confident throughout your life.**

In the story, the **Samaritan woman's** life was changed! She goes from a **lonely, confused and broken** woman to a **forgiven, mission minded disciple** of the Lord Jesus! She actually goes back into her own town and tells her own community about Jesus! It's a fascinating story! Look again at the great ending to the story:

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world." John 4:39-42

That's the **pattern** of evangelism!

That's an *example* of being a witness for Christ!

## Those who trust in Christ TALK ABOUT CHRIST.

That is the *pattern* in Scripture:

That is being a *mission minded* disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Who would have ever guessed that a *lonely, confused and broken* woman would have made such an impact in her community?

Every one of us is just like that Samaritan woman. Our stories might be different than hers, but sin affects us all --- in our own ways, we are all "*lonely, confused and broken*" in sin.

But yet God chooses to work through you, just as He did the Samaritan woman. God's power is at work when you witness for Christ; the Holy Spirit is at work every single time you confess Christ and His salvation to other people.

**Don't let Satan discourage you:  
the Lord uses your words  
to bring the Gospel to other people!**

Here at Trinity we describe our mission and ministry as coming alongside people to help you become *ever more* **biblically literate, doctrinally sound, MISSION MINDED** and **passionately engaged in the Kingdom of God.**

The story of the Samaritan woman is exactly what we mean by "mission minded". You learn, believe and understand the grace and mercy of Jesus for yourself, and then you take it to your "community"; the people in your life, so that they too can learn, believe and understand God's mercy and grace for them.

**Those who trust in Christ**

## **TALK ABOUT CHRIST.**

One of the comforting things that we learn in the story of the **Samaritan woman** is that *random meetings with people are not random meetings people!* The Lord watches over our lives and leads us into opportunities to bear witness to our faith and our Savior. Jesus knew that woman would be at the well, so he sent the disciples away so he could talk to her privately. He arranged the whole thing!

The Lord does that for you as well --- He brings people into your life so that you can be a witness in words and in actions. He puts you in people's lives for a reason. Nothing happens by chance in our lives! God has prepared in advance these opportunities to share your faith; watch for those opportunities to share Christ!

**Random meetings with people  
are not random meetings people ---  
its all by God's design and plan!**

Today we rejoice and thank God for the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League**, the **LWML**, and their mission minded service in our midst and in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

The LWML reminds us that we all are missionaries; we are all witnesses to God's grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. Pay attention, and look for opportunities --- because

**Those who trust in Christ  
TALK ABOUT CHRIST!**

Amen!