

“How to Know Christ Truly”

John 4:39-44

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 20 other major languages. And our Bible teaching programs in several languages are available all the time and any time at the website, *twr360.org*. That’s *twr360.org*. Thousands are tuning in for spiritual nourishment and blessing. You can join them and be blessed too.

You are listening to this broadcast in English, but we also broadcast in more than 21 other languages to some of the most unreached areas of the world. Places like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, and more. Why do we do it? Because we have God’s promise that His Word will not return to Him empty; it will accomplish what He sends it to do. And you know something, we have ample proof that His promise is true.

Here’s just one testimony of a listener from India who listens to our Hindi language broadcasts. The program is called *Asha Deep*, that means, “Light of Hope.” He writes...

"My name is Ram. I got an opportunity to listen to your Hindi radio program 'Asha Deep' and was very appreciative. The messages and teachings about Jesus Christ were wonderful and knowledgeable. Your program has totally changed my life and way of thinking. But my family members do not support me. They are still non-believers. They always oppose me. They create problems in my new life in Christ. It is very difficult to obey the word of Jesus and follow Him. I want to grow spiritually. Please, guide me. And pray for my safety and spiritual growth."

That is a wonderful testimony! But for Ram, following Christ is not easy; his family opposes him. Maybe your family opposes you for your faith too. If so, take heart my friend. Our staff at Heralds of Hope prays regularly for our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will come with today’s teaching from the Gospel of John. He is continuing our study of John chapter four and the experience of Jesus when he met a Samaritan woman beside Jacob’s well.

Right now, let’s pray. Holy God our Heavenly Father, we come to you by faith in the name of Jesus. We ask you to open our hearts to the truth of your Word as Dr. Yoder helps us to see lessons in Jesus’ experience with the woman at the well. We pray this in His name, Amen.

In the learning experiences of my life, I have found there are levels of learning. We come to know truth in a number of different ways. We may read it in the Bible, or we may read it in a magazine. That's one level of learning. Another level is that we may hear the truth; we hear someone speak the truth. Then we may experience the truth. That is a third level of learning. We often think about this experience level. After some experiences we say we need to write that up to the school of experience. We can say experience is a most valid way of learning. Sometimes it's very costly. We can avoid unhappy and wasteful experiences if we will listen or read but experience is foundational. It is right there at rock bottom.

Then there are many kinds of learning: the skills we need to know to earn a living which we might call a trade; the ways of doing a job easily; how to do it smoothly and with a minimum of effort.

There are persons we need to learn to know: those who will guide, train, and teach. Someone once said to me, "It's not so much what you know as who you know." That may be true in Christian experience, but it is also important to know the facts of life. From John 4:39-45 I bring to you HOW TO KNOW CHRIST TRULY.

- 39 *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.*
- 40 *So, when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.*
- 41 *And many more believed because of his own word.*
- 42 *And said unto the woman, now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.*
- 43 *Now after two days he departed thence and went into Galilee.*
- 44 *For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honor in his own country.*
- 45 *Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.*

I mentioned in my introduction that there are different levels of learning and different subjects of learning. From this text I will show you the several CHARACTERISTICS of Jesus Christ so you can know Him truly. You can read about Him, listen to Him and experience Him.

Here is the first characteristic: **He is the Revealer of All Things.**

That woman with whom Jesus had spoken by Jacob's well suddenly realized that her life was like an open book before the Lord. He seemed to read every part of her life. She told Him all the truth and added, "I perceive that you are a prophet," She concluded this because her life was completely open before Him.

Many of the Samaritans believed because she said, "He told me all that ever I did". Her front was taken away. She could no longer hide behind the things she had hidden behind in the presence of other people. Now in the presence of Jesus she couldn't hide anything because He is the Revealer of all things. So, she confessed and said, "He told me all things that ever I did!"

Well, that's Jesus for you. Yes, He understands everything about you. In fact, I say, you cannot know yourself until you let Him tell you what you are. That is what happened to this woman. That is what can happen to you, because He is the Revealer of all things! That's one characteristic about Him.

The second characteristic follows: **He is the Redeemer of All Men.**

Jesus stayed with these Samaritans two days, and during that time many more believed because of His own word. You see, it was necessary for them to hear Him. The woman could tell them, and she did, and many believed because of what she told them. But when they heard Him themselves, they said, "Now we believe not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves." Yes, one can hear the testimony of what Jesus did for another, but it is also good to hear Him. They said, "Now we believe... and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." That's what I say: He is the Redeemer of all men. These Samaritan people saw Him that way. They said, "We understand; we believe; we have heard Him, and we are convinced that here is the Messiah, the Savior of the world!"

I'm glad I know Him that way. I know He is the Redeemer of all men. He is my Redeemer; He is my Savior. I have confessed and acknowledged Him as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Do you know Him that way? You must know Him like this. He is the Redeemer of all men who believe. Of course, now you can be one of those and believe this very moment.

There is a third characteristic of Jesus: **He is the Restorer of All Good.**

There are some serious tragedies in life. One of those Jesus mentioned here. He said that the prophet has no honor at home in his own country. That really is a tragedy. It is what I call the tragedy of neighborhood. Isn't it a pity that some of the people who live closest to us we are unable to appreciate as we should? But Jesus is the Restorer of all good things.

The Galileans believed. They received Him because they had seen all the things which He had done in Jerusalem. Jesus was a worker of miracles. The Gospels record 38 miracles which Jesus did. So, I believe, too. All of them but one was miracles of mercy—miracles of mercy! His deeds told the people who He was, and who He is. The Galileans knew Him. They received Him because they had seen the things which He did: His acts of mercy; His words of compassion and love. Yes, He is the Restorer of all good.

By this text we see Him as He is: The Revealer of all things; the Redeemer of all men; the Restorer of all good. How do you know Him? How can you come to know Him? Oh, it's right here. Believe on Him. Receive Him. Then you can know Him truly just like these people did, and just like I do.

Our heavenly Father, what a joy it is to open the book of God and think together on these precious truths. Now I ask, dear Lord, that my friend with whom I've been fellowshiping these few moments may also find in Jesus the Redeemer, the Savior, the Revealer, the Restorer. So, I pray the Holy Spirit may touch his heart and life with eternal blessing through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Yes, my friend, as Dr. Yoder said, Jesus wants you to believe on Him, just like those Samaritans did. They said we have seen Him and heard Him teach and now we believe that He is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.

My friend, do you believe Jesus is who He said He is? If you exercise faith in Him, He will reveal Himself to you. No, you may not see a visible form, but He will speak to you through His word and through your conscience. And He will teach you how to know Him truly.

Now, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, "How to Know Christ Truly."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “How to Know Christ Truly.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

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Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John’s Gospel with a message titled “How to Find Help.” You won’t want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.