

March 27, 2011 "Time To Change Course" John 3

I read a true story this week that happened in 1995 between an American Navy Captain and some Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland. The conversation went like this:

AMERICANS; Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid collision.

CANADIANS; Recommend that you divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid collision.

AMERICANS; This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy ship and I say again, divert YOUR course.

CANADIANS; No, I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans; THIS IS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN OUR ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS, AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

CANADIANS: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

Well, Captain, time to change course, huh? I like this story because it not only speaks to the

Samaritan woman in our Bible story from John 3, but to each of us too.

The woman in our story had led quite a life. She has had five husbands and is living with some guy. She is obviously looked down on by the village because she came to the well alone, and not with the other women, and came during the heat of the day. I'm sure she was referred to as the tramp of the town for her lifestyle. She went through men like Matteo goes through diapers. Though this was the course her life had taken, God had a new plan, a new course if you will, for her; she met Jesus. Jesus was kind and caring. He spoke to her while others avoided her. Though He knew her lifestyle, He was there to offer forgiveness, hope, and a change of course.

Hearing His words, her heart was touched as she raced back to the village and told them Who she had met. People from the town could tell that something had happened to her by her words and came out to meet Jesus themselves. The Bible tells us that they believed in Jesus because of her words. Her life had taken a real change in course after meeting the Light of the World. She changed course and became a follower of Jesus, brought people to a new life, not on a course of doom and destruction in sin.

What course is your life on at this time? Like the woman at the well, do you find yourself being led by your own sin, greed, anger, selfishness, and pride? Are you feeling rejected, alone, hurt, empty and used by others in your life? Is it time to go to the well, meet Jesus and change course? In our reading, Jesus calls Himself the spring of water that leads to eternal life. Other refreshments from this world leave us dry. While Jesus; His Word, His love, His body and blood, and His forgiveness bring us life, peace, and hope eternal. We find refreshment in His Word.

Because God is Good. . .At All The Time, He wants you to change course in your life before it's too late. No matter how big we think we are, no matter how bad our sin, Jesus, God's Light, is bigger and stronger. Now is the time for each of us to change course and go to the well of the Word, the well of worship, and the well of Bible Study to confess our many sins, and ask for His love, His water of life, His light to light our way. In other words, God, give us a change of course. Amen..
.pastor matthews