

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Historical Chronology between Matt 4:11 and 12 (Review)

1. Jesus returns to Judea after the wilderness testing and John [the Herald] identifies Him as the promised Messiah (John 1:29-36).
2. Christ calls disciples and travels to Galilee (John 1:37-49).
(Not the same as His withdrawal to Galilee in Mt 4:12)
 - Andrew and John - - vv. 37-39
 - Peter - - vv. 40-42
 - Philip - - vs. 43
 - Nathanael - - vv. 45-49
3. First miracle was at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11).
4. Christ travels to Capernaum from the wedding feast with Mary, His half brothers and the disciples (John 2:12).
 - Half brothers:
 - James
 - Joseph
 - Judas
 - Simon
5. Christ travels to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover and drives the money changers and their animals out of the temple (John 2:13-21).
 - Different temple cleansing than mentioned in other gospels.
 - Matt 21:12; Mark 11:15; Luke 19:45-48
 - A sign of His Messianic authority
 - Rejected by the religious leaders
6. During His week in Jerusalem, He meets Nicodemus and communicates that spiritual regeneration is the prerequisite for entering the Kingdom of God (John 3:1-21).
 - Two ministries are simultaneously functioning at this time in the same geographical area. This provides too much friction.
 - The Lord defuses the situation and goes up to Galilee.
7. John is arrested
 - He's removed and some of his students still fail to transition – a travesty in the spiritual life.
8. The Lord returns to Galilee through Samaria (John 4:1ff – Matthew 4:12)
 - We have observed the religious attack of the Pharisees in their attempt to create discord between the two ministries that functioned simultaneously - the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of John the Baptist.

Jesus and His disciples minister at the southern portion of the river valley.

- Jesus and His disciples were baptizing as well.

▪ The **Pharisees** conducted a religious attack in an attempt to create discord between the two ministries.



John's ministry in Aenon near Salim.

- Springs were present so he could conduct his baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins.
- Those who were baptized were identified with Messiah and His promised Kingdom.

John 4:1-4

(1) Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John

(2) (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were),

(3) He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

- The Pharisees were attempting to stir up problems by starting heated theological debates between John's disciples and the Lord Jesus Christ's disciples as per John 3:25ff.
- The Lord diffuses the situation by moving out of the area.

John 4:4

(4) And **He had to pass** through Samaria.

"He had to pass" -

- Imperfect active indicative **δει + δε** followed by present middle infinitive **διέρχομαι**
 - DEI plus DE – "it is necessary" or "it was a requirement"
 - DIERCHOMAI – "to go through" or "to pass through"
- Corr. translation - but **it was necessary** (a requirement) **for Him to go through Samaria.**

It was the Father's will for Jesus Christ to avoid John's ministry by going through Samaria.

Why did God the Father direct Jesus Christ through Samaria?

1. John's disciples are focused on the man and not the message that John had been preaching [note John 3:25].

- They were believers. John's disciples believed the message that John preached, but they were focused on John.
- This blinded them to the point that they did not recognize that a transition was taking place.
- John's ministry was to decrease and the Lord's was to increase. They would have realized this had they focused on the message.
- They got caught up in whose ministry was more popular.

POD - It's best to leave people alone who are focused on the man as opposed to the message. Respect their privacy!

- They haven't made the transition.
- Their lack of malleability stifles God the Holy Spirit's work required to make them recognize the need for a transition.

- Since we are not in the business of coercing other's volition, the best thing to do is let the Lord work things out as we fulfill the responsibilities of our CABP – our application today.
 - Pray for them in an intercessory capacity.
 - By doing that, we give them breathing room.

POD: Respecting the privacy of those who are focused on the man diffuses Satan's potential of creating discord through heated theological debates.

John 3:25-26

(25) Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew (a Pharisee) about purification.

- The Pharisees heard that more people were being baptized under the Lord's ministry than John's ministry. As a result, they sent a delegate to John's disciples.
- What arose was not a discussion, but a heated debate. It was planned.
- John's disciples took the bait because they were not focused on Jesus as their Messiah. They were not focused on the message communicated by John, although they had believed it.

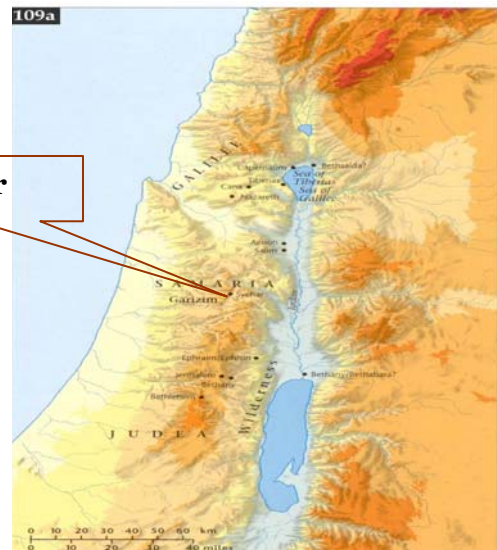
(26) And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and **all are coming to Him.**"

2. The Samaritans of Sychar were ready to be saved (John 4:39-41).

John 4:39-41

(39) From that city (Sychar) many of the Samaritans **believed in Him because of the word** of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done."

- **A person is ready to be saved when God has prepared them to be saved.**



“Because of the word” - -

- **διά** + accusative of **λόγος**
- **DIA plus LOGOS** - “on account of the word”
 - This expresses the cause
 - “Because of”
 - “On account of”

Whose word?

- Possessive genitive **γυναικος**
 - **GUNAIKOS** – Woman (of Samaria)
 - The woman's word
 - It was because of what she said to them about Jesus Christ that they believed.

Look at the positive volition - -

(40) So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. (Positive volition)

(41) Many more believed because of His word;

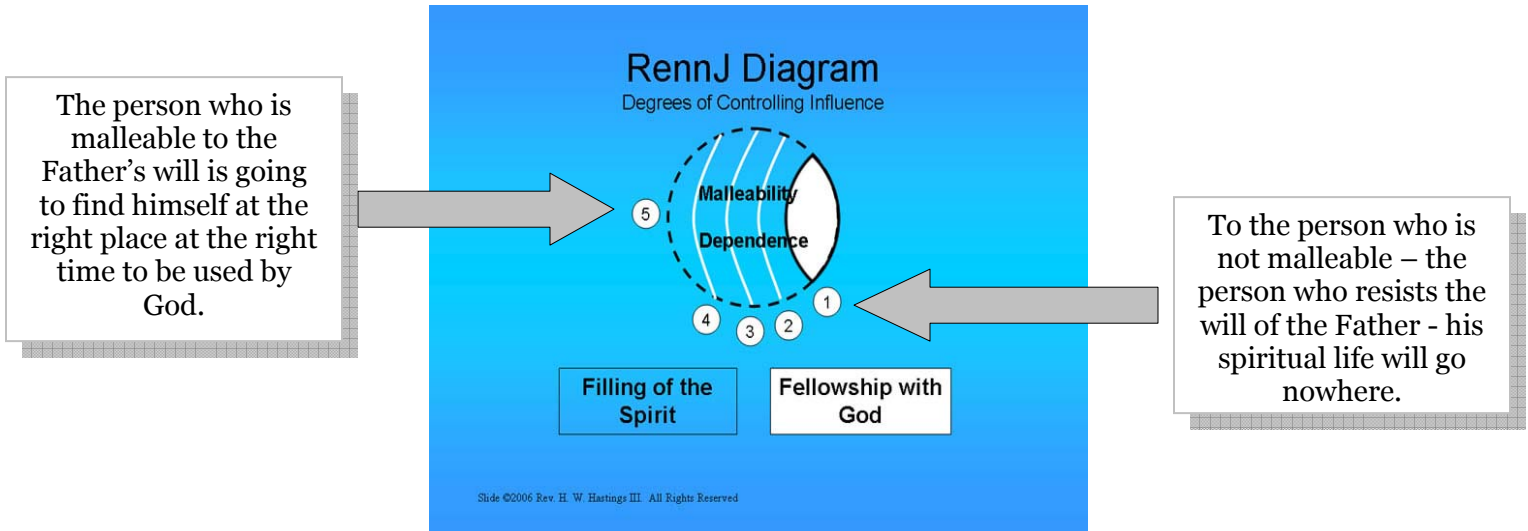
It's amazing when think about what happens when we are malleable to go where ever our heavenly Father desires for us to go - -

- The Son had to go through Samaria – the right place at the right time.
- When we are malleable to go where our Heavenly Father wants us to go, we always end up at the right place at the right time to Carpe Occasio and represent Jesus Christ to those whom God has prepared.
- Someone has to tell them the gospel.

Personal Evangelism -

1. To Carpe Occasio, our responsibilities as ambassadors require malleability to go where the Father wants us to go **without reservation**.

POD: Until you are willing to *go* anywhere, you will never *get* anywhere.



How do we get to where God wants us to be?

- Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit
 - Leading of the Spirit (Gal 5:18)
 - Bearing Witness ministry of the Spirit (Rom 8:16)

The Jews despised the **Samaritans**. They were half-breeds. Some Jews were around in 721BC when the Northern Kingdom fell and Samaria was part of that Kingdom.



There are unsaved people in the world, waiting to hear the gospel. Their souls have been prepared!

There are other souls out in the world, waiting to be prepared, and that preparation is dependent upon you, through intercessory prayer!

- You have a responsibility to pray for the unsaved.
- For friends, co-workers, and neighbors, you must intercede on their behalf.
- It's through the **bearing witness** ministry of the Holy Spirit that we arrive at the right place at the right time in evangelism.

It is because we are malleable that we can render a reason for the confidence that is within us, when asked (1 Peter 3:15).

The time is determined by God as we wait upon Him for the guidance.

God decides the time – we do not.

Examples of two opportunities or events that were seized to fulfill the responsibilities of Ambassadorship for Christ are:

Event #1 - Acts 2:1-36

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:1-13**).

Peter takes his stand and begins to use the word of God in **Acts 2: 14-36**.

- He is communicating Biblical facts about Jesus Christ.



Observe what happens when the Holy Spirit goes to work with the word of God in vs. 37 in the soul of an unbeliever who “happened” to be present for Peter’s teaching.

Acts 2:37-38

(37) Now when they heard this [the biblical truth about Jesus Christ that Peter was communicating under the controlling influence of G/HS], . . .

. . . they were **pierced to the heart**,

“Pierced to the heart” - -

- **κατενύγησαν την καρδιαν**
- Aorist passive indicative **κατανύσσομαι**
 - **KATANUSSOMAI** - “To pierce, to cut or to stab”
 - Communicates that they were wounded in the heart – in their conscience.
- Divine Passive – They received the action. The Holy Spirit did the piercing.

What was the result of this work of God the Holy Spirit? The unbelievers asked a question.

. . . they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brethren, what shall we do?**"

- Did Peter and the Apostles tell them how to be saved before they asked? NO!
- This is the response of an unbeliever who has had his soul prepared by God to respond in faith to the Gospel message.
- You must be at the right place at the right time just like the Lord, so that people will believe.
- And we must wait on God to act to do that.

(38) Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- The only way to heaven is through regeneration – faith alone in Christ alone.
- You must place your faith in the work of another.

Repent – To change your mind from what you trust in – that Pharisaical righteousness of getting into the Kingdom based on 1) being a descendent of Abraham and 2) on your observance of the Mosaic Law.

By today’s standards, it would mean to change your mind about going to heaven based on works, being a good person, going to church, treating people fairly, and being honest.

Event #2 – Acts 16:22-30

Vv. 22-23 - Paul & Silas are arrested, severely beaten, and thrown in prison . . .

Acts 16:22-30

(22) The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.

(23) When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

(24) and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Does this bother Paul or Silas?

Would this bother you?

- Would you focus on the inhumane treatment?
- Would you focus on your “rights”?

(25) But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

- They are living the spiritual life in a prison after having been beaten.
- “praying and singing hymns of praise to God”
 - This is a result of the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit and His controlling influence.
 - A result of the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)

Because they are under the controlling influence of God the Holy Spirit, their spiritual lives are illuminating this dark prison cell.

- **Matthew 5:16** “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
 - “**Good works**” here is a result of the execution of the spiritual life in the born again believer who is under the controlling influence of God the Holy Spirit.
 - The Spirit is producing the desire to pray within the believer that is unconditionally surrendered to the Father’s will.
 - They are right were the Father wants them to be!
 - The light of their spiritual life is shining as it is designed to do. It is shining before the other prisoners and the Philippian jailer.

(26) and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

(27) When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

- In the Roman Empire, **suicide** is the only honorable death for a jailer who had prisoners escape under his watch.

(28) But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

- How could Paul discern it in his soul that they were to remain in the jail? After all, the chains fell off. It was easy to think that the Lord wanted them to go.
- Just because doors open does not mean you are to walk through them. How are you to know which doors to go through and which to refrain from going through?
- Who has been given to you, for the sake of Christ, to mentor you on these matters?
 - God the Holy Spirit was sent to bear witness to the willing soul.

(29) And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,

(30) and after he brought them out, he said,

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" – **You** must be prepared to give an account for the hope [confidence] that is in you when asked!

"What must I do to be saved" is a question that has come from a soul that desires to be saved because it has been prepared by the Spirit of God.

- You must be at the right place at the right time and the only way you are going to get there is if you are willing to go anywhere.
- These are questions **you** will hear when your "light shines before men."

(31) They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.