

# GOD NOTICED ME

Ser4004 Win One in 2021, Pt 3

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E & L

Good morning church family. Happy 2021! How are you feeling about 2021 so far? I saw this on a Facebook post that pretty much sums it up.

“I’d like to cancel my subscription to 2021. I’ve experienced my free 7-day trial and I’m not interested”.

Who is feeling this way? It can only get better! I hope! Lol

Every year my husband, John, asks God for a word for the year. He’s been asking God for this since I’ve known him. I even get him a bracelet made with the word on it. I’m finding that this year it’s actually a “thing.” I am seeing everywhere on social media, the question, “What’s your word for the New Year?”

Have any of you asked God to give you a word for the year and a bible verse to go with it? Shout out some of your words to me.

The word God gave me this year is *real*. That word seems a little vague and it could mean anything, right? I had to go deeper in prayer and ask God what He means by *real*. Why is *real* my word? The verse God gave me to go with this word is...

**John 4:23** *But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him.*

As I look at the verse, it tells me that God is seeking out *real* worshipers! He is seeking those who are not afraid to really live for God. He is seeking who are willing to confront the sin that has been holding them back and grieving the Holy Spirit. He is looking for us to face the sin in our own lives, rather than looking at the sin in others.

We need to be right with God as we share the gospel with the world around us! The question is how do we do that? How do we show the world the REAL JESUS? Not a shallow Jesus. Not a Santa Claus Jesus who gives us everything we want. Not a Jesus who turns his head and lets us live in our sin as we play the grace card. People see right through all of that. Not a Jesus who judges us harshly, but a Holy Jesus who loves us. How do we show the world the *real* Jesus from God's word?

I began to think about our sermon series this month, "Win One in 2021." I prayed about how do I teach or preach about Winning One in 2021, about each of us winning one soul to Jesus Christ?

I heard the Holy Spirit speak into my heart, these words.

"You can't win one unless you are ONE with Jesus Christ."

Only the Holy Spirit can lead someone to Jesus Christ. He uses us as his vessel. But a vessel of God must want to live a holy life that is pleasing to God. Right? Can I get an amen?

I will get back to you with what I believe God meant when He said those words to me. And I am going to be *REAL* with you all today with the *real* thoughts I have about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Would you pray with me for the message today?

The title of our message is, "God Noticed Me."

We are going to look at the story of the woman at the well in John Chapter 4. This Samaritan woman was completely *real* and God noticed her! There is something about being completely *real* that turns God's head towards us!

A little background...

Jesus' disciples had gone ahead of him to get some food and Jesus was on his way back to Galilee. He came to a town called Samaria. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down by the well and it was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. She was probably an outcast. She was coming to the well at noon, alone. The women in that time would all go together early in the morning or at the end of the day when the sun wasn't so hot. Here she was at noon, the worst time of day, alone. Why? Maybe she didn't want to deal with the rejection from the other women as to her lifestyle, because she was a social outcast.

Let's turn to **John 4:7-14** - 7 *When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"* 8 *(His disciples had gone into town to buy food)* 9 *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)* 10 *Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."* 11 *"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"* 13 *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

My question to you, the congregation, is what are you drinking that is leaving you thirsty and unsatisfied? If we are going to Win One in 2021, we need this water welling up inside of us. Or are we just people with words? Ouch!

Let's continue...

**John 4:15-26** - 15 *The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."* 16 *He told her, "Go call your husband and come back."* 17 *"I have no husband, she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."*

19 Sir, the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 "You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship that we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything us. 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you- I am He. "

This is my verse for the year.

**John 4:23** "True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Fathers seeks."

I want to be the kind of worshiper the Father seeks! Do you? Then we've got to get serious!

To worship the father in spirit and truth, we need to be *real*. We need to be *real* with God, *real* with ourselves. We must get rid of the sin in our lives that is holding us down. We Christians have a lot of sin and we play the grace card. God is looking for more. God is looking for sacrifice. God is looking for true worshipers to worship Him in spirit and in truth!

The only way we can really lead others to Jesus and Win One in 2021 is to be ONE with Jesus Christ. Our words don't mean anything if our actions and our lifestyles don't match up with God's word. That is what I am preaching today, to myself and to the people I love, you my church family.

I read this quote about atheism and it really hit me hard.

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today, is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world finds unbelievable. Brennan Manning

Win one, Be ONE with Jesus! Let's see the end of the story.

**John 4:28** *Then leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.”*

How did Jesus know everything this woman ever did? Jesus heard it from his Father because he was one with the Father. Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He chose to live as a man on earth. He heard His Father's voice. He knew his Father's heart and so can we. We need to sacrifice and die to our flesh. We can't continue living as the world does. Jesus didn't.

**John 4:39 - 39** *Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of this woman's testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40: So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many became believers.*

WHAT CHANGED? SHE SAW THE REAL JESUS. THE TOWN SAW THE REAL JESUS.

I don't believe the whole town was changed and many became believers because of this woman's words. It was her testimony. Her changed life matched up with Jesus' words. It was her transformation. Her life was transformed by Jesus Christ.

I don't think she went back and continued living with her boyfriend. I think she changed her lifestyle and many people saw that and they wanted to know who this man was who had this influence over her. Transformation is the KEY!

The only way people will come to know Jesus is through transformed lives. If we preach Jesus, we need to live transformed lives. Not perfect lives, as we will never be perfect, and we will always fall short in some way, but our lives need to reflect God's word.

When I say it has to start with us, church family, I really do mean me, too. I know too well what it's like to live a lifestyle that doesn't match up with the will of God. Our words mean nothing if our lifestyle doesn't reflect the heart of Jesus. What do you need transformed in your life? What sin do you need to put away?

My Story: My lifestyle didn't always reflect the love I had in my heart for Jesus. I can tell you I know that I really loved Jesus, but I still chose to live in sin. However, living that way

will always leave you empty and without the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

I gave my heart to Jesus Christ when I was 13 years old. I lived for Jesus and I loved Jesus with all of my heart. When I hit my early 20's, I surrounded myself with friends who didn't know Christ and they lived a completely different lifestyle than I did. I worked for a commercial talent agency and I was taking a lot of theater classes in Philadelphia. I worked mainly with young people my age and they were a lot of fun. I loved going out, having fun with my friends.

We went to bars and parties and eventually I was living the same lifestyle they were. I loved Jesus and I would talk about Jesus to my dates, my boyfriends, and my friends, but my lifestyle didn't match my faith...I knew it. I felt empty and guilty and I knew God was calling me to be different, to change. I got engaged to someone who didn't live for Jesus and I was so miserable inside.

Every night before I went to sleep, I would say, "I love you Jesus, you know that, but I have to get my life in order, then I will live the way you've called me too." Then one day I was taking the train to Philadelphia for one of my theater classes. God noticed me, just like he did with the woman at well.

Someone got on the train, walked by me, and handed me a bible tract. I was a believer, so I took it. As I was putting it in my purse, this verse jumped out at me.

**Romans 6:23** *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

I knew this verse, and I knew what it meant. But the Holy Spirit nudged me to look again. The wages of sin is death. Did this mean I was going to die in my sin if I did not get my act together? Maybe, but God spoke a different message to my heart that day. God said, "What do you want Gina?" What do I want? I thought about it for a minute. Then, in my heart, I said back to God, "I want to be married to someone who loves me and loves you. Dear God, I want children one day who love you and I want to be successful in my life, whatever that means."

The Holy Spirit said to me, "If you keep living outside my will, your dreams will die. The dream of the kind of marriage you want will die. The joy in your heart will die. You may not die, but your dreams will."

The wages of sin is death. That's what sin does to us. It kills our dreams, our hopes, and our joy. It replaces all of these with doubt, depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

That's why Jesus wants us to have transformed lives. God is looking for real worshipers; those who can sacrifice the temporary pleasures of life to receive the everlasting joys of life. After a while living in sin is not fun anymore. The cost of sin is too high! What sin is costing you too much right now? Get rid of it. You have free will. God will help you, but you have free will. It's your decision.

When I look at my life now, I am so happy I turned away from that lifestyle. It wasn't easy. I had to be alone for a while until I could find friends who loved God like I did; friends who would hold me accountable. I had to break an

engagement and live single, alone with God. Was it worth it? It sure was! I have a husband who loves me with all his heart and he loves God even more! I have daughters who love Jesus and I have a beautiful little grandson who will grow up to love Jesus along with the rest of us! I have joy in my heart, knowing I am living for my best friend, JESUS CHRIST!

My message today to you and to me...before we run out and try to Win One in 2021, is let's be one with Jesus Christ and have our lifestyle match our words! Transformation is what God is looking for! Let us be true worshipers in spirit and in truth! Let's really follow Jesus!

(slide 11)

**Matthew 4:19** *"Come follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for men."*

The key words here are *"follow me"* Follow what Jesus does, look at his life. Does your life resemble His? If we follow Jesus, we learn about him and become more like him.

We have the Holy Spirit to help us be more like Jesus. But he will not help us if we are grieving him and living in willful sin. What sins do you need to choose to put away from your life today? We all have them.

Do you want to Win One in 2021? Be ONE with Jesus. Know the real Jesus. Love the real Jesus. Live for the real Jesus. Sacrifice for the real Jesus. People will then see the *REAL* JESUS inside you and when you share about Him it will be living water flowing out of you and into them! That is what

the Holy Spirit does! Everyone will want that living water that springs up to eternal life!

Maybe you don't have that living water that Jesus was talking about with the woman at the well. He was talking about a real relationship with himself. Not a religion, a relationship.

We like to say here at GCCC that it's as easy as **A B C**.

**A. Admit** you are a sinner.

**B. Believe** God sent His one and only son to die on a cross and take your place for that sin. Receive that gift.

**C. Commit** your life to Jesus Christ.

This is not a onetime prayer. It's a commitment to live for Jesus Christ. He will help you I promise.

If you would like this living water, and you would like to begin a relationship with God's own Son, please pray this prayer with me today...

Dear God, thank you for loving me. I admit I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins. Dear God, please forgive me for all my sins. Dear Jesus, I ask you now to come and live inside my heart. Be my Lord and my personal Savior. I commit my life to you, Lord Jesus.

Holy Spirit, help me live my life for Jesus Christ. Teach me your will and transform my life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.