



# LESSON 16

# Personal Witnessing: How Jesus Did It

*“Before I can preach love, mercy, and grace, I must  
preach sin, Law, and judgment.”*

JOHN WESLEY

## **Kirk’s Comment**

In this lesson we will look at the story of the woman at the well from a very different perspective than perhaps you ever have before. Here we see Jesus in action, witnessing to a stranger in an everyday situation. It is so instructive that we’ve called it “The Way of the Master.”

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

*“I’ve made my peace with ‘the Man upstairs.’”*

When people refer to God as “the Man upstairs,” they reveal that they have no concept of (nor living relationship with) Him. They will use such words because they feel uncomfortable saying His name. Often they will have a measure of reverence for God, but not enough to obey Him. Ask if the person thinks he will go to heaven when he dies. He’ll almost certainly say he will, and a little probing will reveal that he’s trusting in his own goodness to save him. However, the only way sinners can have peace with the God they have offended is through the shed blood of the Savior.

Therefore, it’s important to take the person through the Ten Commandments to strip him of his self-righteousness and his false sense of





*Convict: Jesus brought conviction using the Law of God* (vv. 16–18). Jesus gently spoke to her conscience by alluding to the fact that she had transgressed the Seventh Commandment. He used the Law to bring “the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:19,20). We can do the same by asking, “Do you think you have kept the Ten Commandments?” Most people think they have, so quickly follow with, “Have you ever told a lie?” This *is* confrontational, but if it’s asked in a spirit of love and gentleness, there won’t be any offense. This is because the “work of the Law [is] written in their hearts” and their conscience will also bear “witness” (Romans 2:15).

Jesus confronted the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18–21 with five of the Ten Commandments and there was no offense. Have confidence that the conscience will do its work and affirm the truth of each Commandment. Don’t be afraid to gently ask, “Have you ever stolen something, even if it’s small?”

Learn how to open up the spirituality of the Law and show how God considers lust to be the same as adultery (Matthew 5:27,28) and hatred the same as murder (1 John 3:15). Make sure you get an admission of guilt. Then ask the person, “If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day, do you think you will be innocent or guilty?” If he says he will be innocent, ask, “Why is that?” If he admits his guilt, ask, “Do you think you will go to heaven or hell?”

From there the conversation may go one of three ways:

- *He may confidently say, “I don’t believe in hell.”* Gently respond, “That doesn’t matter. You still have to face God on Judgment Day *whether you believe in it or not*. If I step onto the freeway when a massive truck is heading for me and I say, ‘I don’t believe in trucks,’ my lack of belief isn’t going to change reality.” Then tenderly tell him he has *already* admitted to you that he has lied, stolen, and committed adultery in his heart, and that God gave him a conscience so he would know right from wrong. His conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit will do the rest. That’s why it is essential to draw out an admission of guilt *before* you mention Judgment Day or the existence of hell.
- *He may say that he’s guilty, but that he will go to heaven.* This is usually because he thinks that God is “good,” and that He will, therefore, over-



look sin in his case. Point out that if a judge in a criminal case has a guilty murderer standing before him, the judge, if he is a good man, can't just let him go. He must ensure that the guilty man is punished. If God is good, He must (by nature) punish murderers, rapists, thieves, liars, adulterers, fornicators, and those who have lived in rebellion to the inner light that God has given to every man.

- *He may admit that he is guilty and therefore going to hell.* Ask him if that concerns him. Speak to him about how much he values his eyes and how much more he should value the salvation of his soul.

*Reveal: Jesus revealed Himself to her* (v. 26). Once the Law has humbled the person, he is ready for grace. The Bible says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). The gospel is for the humble. Only the sick need a physician, and only those who will admit that they have the disease of sin will truly embrace the cure of the gospel. Learn how to present the work of the cross—that God sent His Son to suffer and die in our place, and that Jesus rose from the dead and defeated death. Take the person back to civil law and say, “It’s as simple as this: We broke God’s Law, and Jesus paid our fine. If you will repent and trust in the Savior, God will forgive your sins and dismiss your case.”

Ask him if he understands what you have told him. If he is willing to confess and forsake his sins, and trust the Savior with his eternal salvation, have him pray and ask God to forgive him. Then pray for him. Get him a Bible. Instruct him to read it daily and obey what he reads, and encourage him to get into a Bible-believing, Christ-preaching church.

## QUESTIONS

1. **What are the four principles of evangelism that Jesus demonstrated with the woman at the well?**





**Abby Thetic:** “Never.”

**Christian:** “Do you think that you have kept the Ten Commandments?”

**Abby Thetic:** “Most of them.”

**Christian:** “Have you ever told a lie?”

**Abby Thetic:** “Sure, who hasn’t?”

**Christian:** “What does that make you?”

**Abby Thetic:** “A liar?”

**Christian:** “That’s right. Have you ever stolen anything, even if it’s small?”

**Abby Thetic:** “Maybe one or two things when I was younger.”

**Christian:** “What does that make you?”

**Abby Thetic:** “A thief.”

**Christian:** “Then, by your own admission, you are a lying thief, and we have only looked at two of the Ten Commandments. Have you ever used God’s name in vain?”

**Abby Thetic:** “Yes. It’s a bit of a habit that I’ve been trying to break.”

**Christian:** “Do you realize what you have done?”

**Abby Thetic:** “No, what?”

**Christian:** “You have taken the name of your Creator—the One who has given you life—and brought it down to the same level as a four-letter curse word to express disgust. The Bible says that God will not hold him guiltless who uses His name in vain.”

**Abby Thetic:** “Uh . . .”

**Christian:** “If God were to judge you by this standard, the Ten Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty on the Day of Judgment?”

**Abby Thetic:** “By that standard, I would be guilty.”

**Christian:** “Would you go to heaven or hell?”

**Abby Thetic:** “I think I would go to heaven.”



**Christian:** “Why is that? Are you hoping that God will overlook your sins because He is full of love?”

**Abby Thetic:** “Yeah, that’s it.”

## WORDS OF COMFORT

### Memory Verse

*“Jesus answered and said to her, Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

**JOHN 4:13,14**

The *Ouachita Mountain Neighbor* newspaper in Arkansas reported the following incident on September 26, 1995:

A local woman in a small town came out of a Wal-Mart store, placed her groceries in the back of her car, and sat in the driver’s seat.

Suddenly, she heard what sounded like a loud gunshot crashing through her back window, and in the same instant something impacted the back of her head. Terrified, she put her hand on the back of her head and felt the horrific sensation of her warm brains oozing onto her hand. She screamed in terror and went into a fit of uncontrollable hysterics.

A number of frantic shoppers immediately called 911 on their cell phones, and within minutes police arrived and rushed to the aid of the screaming woman.

After hearing that the woman was literally holding her brains in, an officer gently pried away her hand and found some gooey, warm biscuit dough. The woman had purchased a can of the mixture with her groceries, and it had expanded in the hot sun and exploded with a bang, sending warm dough onto the back of her head.

### Last Words

**Thomas Hobbes** (1588–1674) was a noted English political philosopher whose most famous work was *Leviathan*. This cultured, clever skeptic corrupted many of the great men of his time. But what hopelessness permeated his last words:

**“If I had the whole world, I would give it to live one day. I shall be glad to find a hole to creep out of the world at. About to take a leap in the dark!”**