



*A Credible Witness:
Reflections on Power,
Evangelism and Race*
By Brenda Salter McNeil
159 pages, paper,
0-8308-3482-6, \$13.00

“The authenticity of the message Jesus came to preach is on trial and . . . the future of our evangelism will rest on how seriously we engage this global postmodern generation with the gospel.”

--Brenda Salter McNeil in
A Credible Witness

You Think You Know the Story . . .

You May Need to Look Again

Sam has been married five times and is now living with her boyfriend. She has pretty lousy self-esteem, so bad that she does her errands during times when she knows she will see the fewest people. A lowly woman who is part of a marginalized culture, she doesn't feel loved or valued. And then she meets Jesus . . .

Almost every Christian has heard the story of the woman at the well, the nameless Samaritan with five husbands who is offered living water by Jesus. It's a great story about someone who is changed forever through meeting Jesus, but how many of us can relate to it, other than our need for Christ? In *A Credible Witness*, Brenda Salter McNeil gives this woman a name, Sam, and a new context from which to get to know her. It turns out, the cultural background of the story offers many similarities to people's experiences today. Learn . . .

. . . why Sam's problem was really “a hole in her soul,” and how we all suffer from feeling unloved and unworthy in some way.

. . . why Jesus went to Samaria in the first place, when Jews were supposed to steer clear of this city. What places or people do we deliberately avoid?

. . . that Jesus didn't just happen to that well by coincidence; he was intentional about being there, even to the time of day.

. . . why asking to have our needs met by others can actually elevate them to a place of feeling valuable.

. . . that being a credible witness often means taking risks.

. . . how reconciliation and evangelism are related.

A church that is not unified is a scandal and a contradiction of the gospel. This book is a good place for us to begin our contemplation of the biblical mandate for us to love one another. Brenda Salter McNeil allows us to look deeply into one African American woman who exemplifies how each of us can be empowered to overcome the social forces of history that have kept us from experiencing the “tie that binds.” Her book will guide us on the journey to becoming a countercultural people who truly live out the values of the kingdom of God.

--from the Foreword by Tony Campolo

A Credible Witness is filled with examples from the author's own experiences and struggles, from her thirst for living water to her desire to reach out to others with this good news. Also included is an appendix with questions for discussion, reflection and application. Learn how to move outward in your relationship with God, building bridges with others the way Jesus did.