

PRAY

John 4:1-(30)42

Erik gave me 42 verses tonight so I am going to walk through each verse 1 by 1 to explain the story of the woman at the well. We should be done by the time service starts Sunday morning. Only kidding...sort of...I am actually only going to be speaking on verses 1-30 so we should be out by Saturday *funny smile...

I am thankful for the privilege of getting to speak tonight but I did laugh when I was given 42 verses and last week Grant got 5 verses. I guess when you are the D team you need a lot more material in order to make something happen 😊

Let's Pray...

Context. By now you may be sick of hearing the pastors use this word but if we do not know or understand where someone is coming from we can take things completely out of context.

Has anyone hear every said or done something that after they found out the real context of where they were basing their own decisions we felt extremely foolish?

If you ask Amanda about this you can be assured that she will say this is our daily life as I live with a size 9.5 foot in my mouth...

Now over the past 4 weeks Pastors John, Grant, & Erik have opened up the book of John and have done a wonderful job of explaining timing historical context and why Jesus did what He did and said what He said at particular times...

John explained why John was writing and what he was up against as people were beginning to not actually believe Jesus did what He did and said what He said. If I can whittled it down, the book of John was written at a particular point in time to "set the record straight" to those that were being miss-led.

Erik spoke about Jesus' first miracle and the significance of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding party...personally I think Erik choose a

wedding party and turning water into wine because Erik likes to throw parties and he relates to Jesus making the celebration a hit!

Then Grant rocked last weeks message by giving us a fire-side chat about the beauty of John 3:16 and the following verses. God LOVES with a love that is beyond love that we can imagine! And he LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD, not just the Jews...this is where we are going tonight.

And by the way, aren't we glad that He "So loved the world." Because if the Jews were still the only chosen people we'd have no shot...

What I love about this series, in the book of John, is how the speakers have been outlined. You are going to get to hear from 8 different speakers as we move through John. EIGHT! Why is that awesome? Because the Holy Spirit does not just speak to those that hold doctoral degrees in theology, the Holy Spirit does not just communicate with the potentate, the Holy Spirit does not only reveal Himself to the head pastor of a church. When you call on the name of the Lord as your Savior He, the creator of the universe begins to reveal Himself to you and YOU and I can begin to exposit scripture because He lives in us!

You are going to be hearing form a plethora of different voices, all disciples of Jesus Christ, all who love Him with their whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and you are going to hear Biblical truth from multiple people. Why is this awesome? Because we are the BODY of Christ and we all give unique strengths and insights to each other that one person by themselves cannot obtain.

I am jacked about this series and how this is playing out!

Ok, where was I? Oh, yea, the woman at the well...wow.

I am going to attempt to continue the teaching with another very familiar story that is very practical, and, in context, a complete stomach punch to me as I prepped for this...

Now listen up, Erik said this two weeks ago, Grant mentioned it again last week, and it is SO good I am going to say it again:

Are you listening?: "You can get your theology correct and your relationship with Jesus Christ wrong."

That is a powerful quote you all! I am going to mention this again later on in the message because I am not talented enough to come up with my own stuff. And plus Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:9 “there is nothing new under the sun.” So if someone nails something then run with it!

Now, why am I bringing that up before we discuss the woman at the well?

Because this is HUGE in order to see how Jesus is teaching and turning what people know and have been taught on their ears! Let’s dive in...

I felt that, some of you are saying, “finally, I didn’t think he was even going to open the bible.” 😊

3he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4And he **HAD TO** pass through Samaria. 5So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.“

I am going to quickly work through these verses to set up the story:

So first off, they were walking north to south and there was a common road that led through the region of Samaria. There was also a road that went around Samaria, but this took way more time and effort. There were definitely sects of people that used the “long road”. Those that considered themselves superior to others (often the most “law abiding” pharisees and Sadducees). They wouldn’t even want to be caught close to associating with this “lowly” group of people.

In order to understand the thinking the most common analogy I can think of that will resonate to us is the segregation that happened in America. When sects of people believed that those with a different skin color were less human. This is the platform of the story of Jesus and his disciples walking through Samaria. This was a population that was considered basically less human than everyone else...this analogy hits home doesn’t it. Makes us sick to think that as humans we are prone to make the same sinful decisions through generations...

Alright, now that we know that, what we also need to understand is traveling through Samaria though was NOT uncommon and a lot of commerce happened through this travel. People would use the short route

but basically never stay long and would “guard” against any sort of extended interactions with the people of Samaria.

Against this backdrop, does this sound like a typical crowd for Jesus?

Jesus intentionally seeking out the people shunned by the culture of the time.

We can see this sort of theme play out over and over and over again throughout Jesus’ teaching...

Now the “the 6th hour”...we also need to recognize the “6th” hour is commonly known in Jewish tradition to account for the hours of sunlight. Thus, if the sun rose at 6am the 6th hour would be around noon. Basically, this is the HEAT of the day and Jesus is fully a human being and he is TIRED from this journey! Verse 7-15

7A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” **8**(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) **9**The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) **10**Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” **11**The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? **12**Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” **13**Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14**but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.^b The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15**The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

This starts to get really good... hear me out...

Does anyone here desire to do super heavy duty work in the middle of desert like heat? NO, dumb question Ben of course not! Exactly...thus, we can assume that NO ONE wanted to be doing heavy labor in during the heat of the day in those days either. They did as much of their grunt work in the cool of the morning and the woman of the town would have done it together as a way to “gab” about life and have some “girl time”.

But this woman chose to bare the heat of the day to AVOID interaction with her community. She obviously chose to be totally uncomfortable, sweaty, smelly, and dusty over spending time with the women of her village.

Are we tracking? She is probably clothed head to toe in the most uncomfortable attire possible, is sweating profusely, smells of ridiculously bad body odor and exhausted from the hard work AND she would rather do this than risk being around the women of her community. Do you think she has been ostracized? You betcha!

Here is why I love how Jesus teaches...let's dig into this:

In John 1:38 we hear people say, "Rabbi" which translates to our language as "Teacher" Jesus was/is the ultimate teacher. As a coach, I do my best to make things as simple as I can for my athletes. Not because they are not intelligent enough to understand the intricate details but because the simple aspects of what I am teaching **ARE** the point!

Jesus was ALWAYS looking for opportunities to teach and even though He was exhausted He had an enormously powerful moment... Let's go...

Anyone who was on this journey by foot would arrive in Sychar and be thirsty. We all need water to survive and in these sort of conditions a human could not survive more than 2 days without water so it made perfect sense for Jesus to ask someone for water...

But the beauty here is Jesus' intentionality in EVERY circumstance.

Very simple, He is tired from walking. Folks, Jesus was completely human in a human body, His body became tired, His body, became hungry, His body was thirsty! He experienced the exact things we experience and after a long walk in arid climates he sat down and simply asked a woman for a drink...but asking for a basic human need was only a means for a way to begin a conversation..

Jesus was continually battling the law or pre-conceived ideology of who the Jews assumed the Messiah to be and what a Savior looked like.

Even the people from Samaria believed in a Messiah (and we will hit on this in a bit) but they also were so focused on the law and rituals that they had no idea a relationship is what they were looking for...

So Jesus, asked a simple question because he was tired and thirsty. He didn't care about cultural norms and what it might look like. He was going to engage with ANYONE at anytime! He chose people...so, he asked this woman for a drink...

Now, the woman's response is also not unusual considering the times and circumstance. She was focused on the law and also understood that a man talking to her was an absolute no-no, especially a male Jew. So she asks a very innocent but prying question:

“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?”

But check this out...check this out...Jesus came to break barriers, not build walls.

Here is where I was gut punched by this passage.

My mentor has told me, “If biblical knowledge, (or a good grasp on what we have been taught), is a sign of spiritual maturity then the Pharisees would still be in charge.”

I can't do my life every day with out asking myself if I am acting like the lawmakers of the day and simply conforming to Christian cultural norms...

Allow what I am about to say play out. Allow for the whole story to unfold about what I am about to say before jumping to a conclusion about anything...

Those of us who call Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and have placed our eternal hope in Him know we have the answer to eternal life. But, BUT how often do we take the route around Samaria instead of through it?

How often, when we see someone the world looks down upon do we ignore the person, instead of engaging with them? How often do we also, look down upon people because of their sin instead of coming beside them and sharing with them that we have living water?

As I said a little bit ago, let's take this analogy to a very uncomfortable level. For some of us I can almost guarantee something will well up inside of you and you will either get upset at my words or you will be confronted by Jesus' love...

BUT when we embrace our discomfort, we begin to challenge the status quo. And when we challenge the status quo growth begins!

Let's look at a segment of society that the church, the so-called bride of Christ, has avoided. Let's look at a segment of people that know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that they are not welcome in church and that even basic interaction with a Christ follower only leads to ridicule and contempt...

...is this beginning to sound like the people of Samaria and especially this woman?...

Are your minds racing? Are we stumbling through a segment of God's creation that has been shunned from Christ's love? Just like the Samaritans were shunned by the Jews?

Would Jesus have gone out of His way to interact with those who are of the Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgendered community? ...*Be silent for a few seconds...

Before you turn your ears off and cry out, HERETIC! APOSTASY! Listen to what I am about to say next...

Are we looking at humans as humans. Are we engaging with ALL human beings as perfect creations by a living God that are ALL subject to a sin nature?

Brothers and sisters, people are NOT the enemy, SATAN is the enemy! Satan comes to seek and destroy.

I have a sin nature in me that ONLY leads to eternal damnation. I am NO better or above ANY human being on the planet. The propensity towards sin that I was born into is no less or grave than someone else's propensity towards sin. There is NO such thing as a "respectable sin"!

We cannot choose the sins we are ok with and the sins we are not ok with. We are ALL broken and in need of a risen Savior. We are all in need of living water and Jesus offers this living water to ALL MANKIND! He specifically went to Samaria to show this love to this woman AND to teach His disciples another lesson about who He is.

I am not up here to discuss an agenda, I am up here challenging us to think in a way that makes this passage jump off the page! Hopefully making us uncomfortable in order to fully grasp what Jesus is doing at this moment

and how this would be a teaching moment for this woman and His disciples.

If we look at this interaction with the woman from Samaria with the same type of emotion that is now running through our minds and bodies does this story not begin to have a whole new meaning and begin to stir something that did not exist in us beforehand?

*****DEEP BREATH*****

Back to the story...hopefully I have your attention...

This was an INCREDIBLE moment in His ministry and this was not by accident.

Jesus did not stop here and talk to a woman that had been divorced 5 times, was living with a man that wasn't her husband, and from a people that "His people" considered less of humanity for any old reason. He was making a statement.

His statement was not just to the woman but to the people of Samaria AND, Catch this this, catch this...

His disciples!

He was continually teaching and He wanted His disciples to see that He would engage and love anyone! His love was NOT just for the Jews. His love WAS NOT only confined to the temple in Jerusalem, He was not only a Savior of the chosen people but to ALL MANKIND!

...I feel like there should be an amen there. ***Smile

So I can't do justice to all 42 verses tonight but I do want to hammer home one more major component to this interaction at the well...

After she asked Jesus why He would ask her for water here was His response. A teaching moment in verse 10:

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

"If you knew the gift of God."

“If you knew the gift of God.”

Do you know the GIFT of God?

He was giving her a taste of what living water was. He was beginning to guide her preconceived notions and walking her towards truth...

I am going to skip ahead a few verses as we do not have time to do justice to everything in this passage tonight...

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” **25** The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” **26** Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

“I who speak to you am he.”

See, she believed in a God, and believed there was a savior BUT she did not comprehend the gift of God and this is what Jesus was bringing to her in plain terms. Just like a drink of well water will keep your body going there is a water that has no end and can save your eternal soul...

This principle is the basis of our Christian faith. We do NOTHING to earn living water. But when the risen Lord of the universe meets us, do we accept His gift of living water?

At this point His disciples arrived back AND they saw Him alone, with a woman. This, in and of itself, could absolutely be considered scandalous. I am not saying this lightly.

In those days men who kept the law, without a doubt were taught not to converse or be found alone with a woman so not to even give the appearance of sin.

So, what is Jesus doing? Continuing to go in a contrary direction to cultural norms and chose relationship OVER rules and rituals. Jesus showed over and over and over again that there is NO way to attain perfection, but that HE was perfection. He was the truth, He is what was written about, all truth

began with Him... Truth lived among them and yet they chose their own man made interpretation of truth.

“We can get our theology correct but get our relationship with Jesus wrong.”

Again, let’s go back to this. Jesus was showing His love for ALL people. This lesson and reveal of who He was/is, was not only meant for this woman but as a teaching moment for his followers. He was breaking down barriers and walls they had been taught their whole lives.

*At this point I want to bring all of this to a close and I think it is the beauty of this part of the passage...What happened next?

Now, catch this, after His disciples had come back, what did she do?

Verse 28

“She left her water jar...”

Loved ones, the VERY THING she came to the well for. The purpose for her day, the thing that would sustain her very body, the water of the well...

She left it...

Don’t miss this, again, DO NOT MISS THIS!:

Why did she come to the well in the first place?

I am going to recap this again to drive home the point. She came to the well, by herself, in the sweltering heat of the day to draw water to take back home SO THAT she could survive...and what did she do?

A woman shunned, by a shunned people left all that she had come to the well for...

Went back to her town and began to interact with the very people she had chosen to avoid and began to engage with them to tell them about what had happened to her. The most outcast and downtrodden person that anyone of that time could think of became the VERY FIRST missionary to Samaria!

“In our weakness, He is made strong!”

Jesus took a broken person, gave that person life, and that person left her purpose for that day with Jesus and went to tell the people of her town about living water and true life.

She left her burdens with Jesus. Both the physical burdens of the water jars but her guilt of sin and she was renewed by believing in Him. She no longer found value in the original purpose for her day, she found living water that more than sustained her.

We are all the woman at the well!

When we encounter Jesus and place our faith in Him we are compelled to leave our burdens with Him and tell others about what has happened in our lives.

As I close I want to jump to Acts chapter 8 and read a couple of verses:

“[4](#)Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. [5](#)Philip went down to the city^a of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ...

[14](#)Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, [15](#)who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit...

She received the gift of living water and left her world behind her and became the first evangelist to Samaria. Because of Jesus' transformation of her life she told others about what He had done for her...

Then, the apostles, came Samaria and preached word, laid hands on those who believed and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Jesus loved, a woman received, a people groups eternity was forever changed.

Understand loved ones, we can ask Jesus questions, He wants the relationship and once we have a relationship we leave our burdens with Him and bring the message of His living water to all we meet.

Don't get caught up in your theology at the expense of your relationship with Jesus...He gives living water to ALL who believe!

Let's pray...