

**Encounters With Jesus**

***“Woman at the Well”***

**John 4:4-30**

- Delivered at DHBC on September 1st, 2013 (Soli Deo Gloria)

Intro:

* why did you come here this morning? What is the purpose of this gathering?
  + Worship (Westminster catechism) – Col 3:17
  + Shaped as a worshiper
  + Train to help others become worshipers
* Series goal 🡪 different encounters with Jesus and seeing how he calls and forms disciples
* Here he takes someone who clearly has no interest in Him and draws her to be a worshipper
* As we walk through this text, I want us to look and see how Jesus describes worship and what a worshiper is

I. Worship is filling up on God

* set scene (read vv. 4-14)
  + Jesus, Samaria (half-breeds, different religion, seen by many to be the same)
  + Jesus talking to her breaks all kinds of social code (woman, Samaritan, sharing drinking vessel)
  + Shared history (Jacob) – woman establishing her credentials
* The image of water
  + Water in the ancient near east 🡪 an image of life
  + Jesus not referring to physical water or thirst (he still demonstrated thirst)

*Jeremiah 2:13 “For My people have committed two evils:*

*They have forsaken Me,*

*The fountain of living waters,*

*To hew for themselves cisterns,*

*Broken cisterns*

*That can hold no water.*

* + God is referring to our proclivity as humans to seek other things to fill our thirst for God.

Look at Eve: “*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*” (Genesis 3:6, NIV)

* + Do you see the thirst in Eve’s thought? She was hungry and the fruit was good for food. She lusted after the beauty of the fruit, how good it looked. And it also gave wisdom!
    - But she stood in a garden planted by the very hand of God. All around was good, beautiful food to eat.
    - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
    - She traded the cool spring for the mud puddle
  + And we do the same
    - Seek after money or comfort (ultimate comfort Ps. 23)
    - Pleasure and sex (does not the one who created us know what pleases us most and has demonstrated a desire to do that?)
    - Approval and image (but we are called friend’s of God)
  + Without fail, our wells or cisterns are temporary relief but leave us more thirsty than before.
    - Salt water
    - Solomon vs. Job (give credit to Chandler)
  + But Jesus offers a living water that quenches thirst forever

II. Worship is exposing our weakness to God’s grace

* The woman has been putting Jesus under the microscope, but now He is going to prove who He is by putting her under the microscope.

Read 15-18

* she is being purposefully vague in her answers not revealing the truth
* her marital history would be a source of shame
  + note she is coming to the well at noon (6th hour, verse 6)
  + she was an invisible, a hidden, pushed to the edges of society
* this would be yet another reason for Jesus to avoid her 🡪 but he doesn’t
* How does Jesus respond? He tells her He knows and knew before they even started talking.
  + He doesn’t excuse her sin, but He doesn’t shun her either
* If you are new here or you are just discovering Jesus, here, in this encounter you see what He is like
  + He spent His earthly life among people who might say “I’m too dirty and sinful for God ever to accept me”. And yet there He was, God in the flesh, right with them.
  + It isn’t that He didn’t mind sin – the Scriptures pain a clear picture of Christ as a warrior bent on destroying sin. He saw sin as a plague. But He saw it as a plague that he was the answer to. He took the sin of the world – everything that held humanity back from worshipping Him, every instance of the capitulating in the open or in secret to another God, every instance of them running by fresh water to drink at muddy streams – He took all of that upon Himself and when He died on the cross, sin died on the cross.
  + Because He took care of the plague, because He dealt with the woman’s sin, He could stand in front of her and say “I know who you are, but I can speak with you still because I will die to remove the shame that makes you fetch water at the hottest part of the day”
  + He stands if front of you and says I know what you did. I know what your doing, but I died so you can still come to me. To follow me. To drink from my living spring. You have no secret sin. I took it all
* Now most of us in this room have heard this. We know of the grace of God. We know He is “mighty to save”.
  + But we think Jesus is a cable company (introductory offer)
  + What does it mean to walk in the light? (1 john 6-10)
* “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*” (1 John 1:6–10, NIV)
  + Being a worshiper of God, being a disciple of Christ, does mean that we fight sin, we put it to death. But part of putting it to death means bringing it to God when it appears, not hiding it away.
  + Many Christians are too caught up in appearance – I want to appear that I am righteous – than actually being righteous. That is not being a worshipper of God.

III. Worship is seeking to know God

* read 19-24
* by this time, Jesus has got the woman’s attention. I think her sarcasm has dropped, she wants to worship, but she doesn’t know how.
* Jewish religion and Samaritan religion were very similar, but fundamentaly different
  + Samaritan only accept Pentateuch (and therefore tabrinacle not temple)
  + Jews of course saw the temple as the center of their religion, the only place where sacrifices to atone sin could be performed
  + Jesus is saying that the concept of location is going to (and already is [proleptsis]) disappear. Why? Because the law and the prophets are summed up in Him. He is the sacrifice, He is the temple, He is the law. He redeems the world so and destroys the sacred/secular divide. He sends the Spirit to indwell the worshiper and transform them into a temple.
* Worship in Spirit
  + What are some characteristics of Spirit (don’t have location, invisible, unknown)
  + In Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic the word for spirit is the same for breathe
    - Our worship is everywhere (not tied to temple or church) and always.
* Worship in Truth
  + You don’t worship things you don’t love (worship-love=duty/slavery) and you don’t love things you don’t know (love-knowledge=infatuation)
  + Therefore you must worship in truth, you must know who you worship
  + Worship and wisdom
  + It is the truth of God’s provision that leads us to seek fulfillment from Him
  + It is the truth of God’s grace that leads us to come to Him even in sin
  + It is the truth of God’s holiness that leads us to mortify sin
  + This is what we are trying to do with Grow 🡪 discover things about God and look at how that deepens how we worship Him

IV. Worship is being a witness

Read 25-30

* true worship changes you
* If you worship something you want others to worship

A few weeks ago we talked about the transfiguration and how the sheet that covers ultimate reality was ripped away and the disciples saw Jesus for who He really was. Something similar happened here. This woman got a new vision of her life – the real vision. She didn’t just see it, she felt it. She thirsted it. Standing by that well at the hottest part of the day, struggling to pull up the water so realized that this was her life. She was thirsty. And for something more than water. Nothing in her life filled that place. She needed something to worship. Men didn’t fill that need, nothing filled that need. And as she began to feel that thirst more acutely, she also began to see Jesus. As He told her that He knew who she was and yet still accepted her, she could feel moisture in her throat. She could feel life. As He talked about what it truly means to worship God and not be tied to time or place but to be transformed into a temple dedicated to worship God in all places at all time and as she understood that this man talking to her was messiah and had come to free her and to make her into a temple she found that not only did she not thirst anymore, but as the man had promised a spring had welled up inside her. She had to tell everyone she knew. Many of these would be the people that rejected her, who had despised her. But the amazing thing is they listened to her testimony and came to see Jesus for themselves.

Where are you this morning? Are you thirsty? Are you missing the spring because you are drinking from mud puddles. Are you hiding from the spring afraid to reveal your sin forgetting that Jesus already knows? Are you seeking to know Jesus more and let that knowledge transform your worship? And if it has, are you inviting others to find the same fulfillment that you have.