

SERMON GUIDE:

I. Introduction

- A. This series – Kingdom Presence – is a collection of moments with Jesus in the Word.
 - 1. Catch Up With The Series on YouTube, Apple Podcasts or Spotify
 - 2. Hebrews 1:1-3 tells us God is speaking to us today, through His Son.
 - 3. We recently dug into some of Jesus' famous teachings and parables. Now we turn our attention to the way He interacted with normal people
 - 4. As we meditate on moments with Jesus, we'll find that He is the expression of God's heart for us – And we'll gain instruction on HOW to live, since God's Spirit shapes us to be more like Jesus every day
- B. Today we look at a long conversation Jesus has with a defensive woman
- C. Read John 4:1-34

II. No Chance Meeting

- A. Jesus initiated this incredible interaction with the woman at a well in Samaria
- B. Everything about it was wrong
 - 1. It was the wrong place... Samaria... and at a well. A man and woman meeting at a well, historically, is pretty scandalous
 - 2. It was the wrong time: the heat of the day. She was hiding... because...
 - 3. She was the wrong person: She was isolated in shame, and it made her think "If he knew who he was talking to..."
 - 4. But Jesus said to her... "If you knew who YOU are talking to..."
 - 5. In reality, He set this moment up: "He had to go through Samaria." It is no chance meeting.

- C. He offers her living water... indirectly revealing who He is... and He wants to give this gift to her...

III. Better Water

- A. She reacts with cagey defensiveness... not at all like us when someone tells us they've got a better way for us to live, or a better thing than what we've got
- B. Jesus knows her... and knows she's thirsty, on a much deeper level
- C. In reality, we're all reaching for water that will satisfy us...
 - 1. We try to find meaning, purpose, fulfillment, in so many things... in pleasure, in power, in comfort, in work, in relationships, in projects and causes, in groups we join... the list is endless...
 - 2. But there is only one that can satisfy the longing in our soul
 - 3. Jesus keeps pursuing her, even doing something that seems crazy...

IV. Full of Mercy

- A. She's tired, thirsty, defensive... but Jesus goes straight to the root of the problem in her life – "Go call your husband."
 - 1. This is a huge no-no in our current culture... where we think anyone who would dare to disagree with us cannot possibly love us.
 - 2. This is probably her nightmare too... the very kind of conversation she was trying to avoid
 - 3. She tries to sidestep the conversation by bringing up a religious debate... anything to change the subject...
- B. But Jesus isn't there to shame her... He was there to set her free...
 - 1. And He was not going to let any prison of shame continue to be her life
 - 2. Pastor Ryan referenced Stockholm Syndrome – a strange phenomenon amongst captives where they sometimes develop a bond with their captor. Sometimes this happens with us – spiritually.
 - 3. The enemy locks us up in shame and we begin to accept it, even agreeing with him, or growing accustomed to our prison. It's what we know, and at least we can keep things under control, we think.
 - 4. But Jesus is not content to let any lie dictate our lives.

5. He is aggressive. Not toward us - toward the shame, the lies, the enemy
- C. Jesus came to destroy the works of the enemy ([1 John 3:8](#))
1. He came to pour his freedom, mercy, joy and restoration into us
 2. Will we let Him?
 3. Sometimes we have things in our lives that hold us back... that make us defensive as well - Jesus knows it all, and He loves you more than you can imagine!
- D. He can call out those lies, and call us forward, because He is savior we need.
1. She almost ends the conversation: "When the Messiah comes, He will tell us what we need." But then Jesus said to her, "I am He."
 2. No more hints and symbols. He tells her plainly. I am the one you've been waiting for, praying for.
 3. This is the first time he claims that title and reveals His true nature. It's not to a high priest or a king, but to this woman – the *wrong person*, in the *wrong place*, at the *wrong time*.
- E. And she is transformed...
1. She came in... locked up in shame, with no way out
 2. But as she left... she was full of hope... and joy... running back to her village so fast she forgot the water!
 3. And her past had no power over her anymore... she was ready to be real about it all with anyone, because He was there.
 4. Her shackles were no match for His freedom
- F. Jesus will never stop chasing us down with His unstoppable love, and our sin and shame cannot hold a candle to His forgiveness, restoration and healing
- G. Will we let Him give us Living Water?
1. Sometimes we think of Jesus and the forgiveness He offers, and then we look at our lives and the choices we make and think He offers that forgiveness reluctantly... because He has to.
 2. But in this scene, the woman was not the only one who changes

3. Jesus also came in tired from His journey, weary and thirsty, but when the disciples return, He's not hungry... He's satisfied. This moment of restoration brought Him so much joy. It is what He longs for still.
4. This is who Jesus is... the one who came to find us... the one who leaves the 99 to go after the one. The one who sets the captives free..
5. "If only we could see who it is that is speaking to us today."

V. Live It

- A. I want to invite you, at a later time, to read back through the passage once more, paying special attention to words or phrases that jump out at you
- B. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the areas of this conversation that you see in your own life and your own heart
 1. Are there areas of your life where you are weary?
 2. Are there things hidden that you're ashamed of? Areas that you're defensive about?
 3. Be real with God... don't hide from Him. He knows it all, and He loves you more than you know.
 4. Maybe today, you need to acknowledge a lie that you've accepted in your life and have allowed to shape your course. Don't just acknowledge it, find Biblical Truth and begin to pray that lie out of your heart.
 5. Maybe it's time to embrace the lost art of confession. It's not a ritualistic thing, or a Catholic thing. James says confessing our sins to one another brings healing.
 6. Above all, pray for the Holy Spirit to impress upon your heart this revelation of Jesus' character. His love and desire to set us free is the driving force of His life. He will not let us stay trapped. Let's meditate on His goodness and respond with thanksgiving.

More to engage/study:

7. Bible Project Video – [Living Water](#)
8. [The Chosen's imagining of this conversation](#) (some artistic license but very beautiful)