

How God Meets Our Three Most Basic Need

EXPERIENCING LOVE, ACCEPTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

The Hunger for “Community”

We all need to have meaningful relationships. In each one of us is a deep desire to be loved and accepted for who we are without the burden of guilt weighing us down (forgiven).

What people in our lives most influence the way we feel about ourselves?

A proper understanding and appropriation of Christ’s love for us will: - Revolutionize our relationships - Impact the way we see and relate to others

Jesus Loves, Accepts & Forgives the Woman at the Well [John 4:4-42]

So he left Judea to return to Galilee.⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

¹⁰ Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoyed?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. ¹⁴ But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me some of that water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to haul water.”

¹⁶ “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet.

NOTE: *This woman was: 1) a Samaritan, a member of a mixed race hated by Jews, 2) known to be promiscuous, living in sin, and 3) in a public place. No respectable Jewish man would talk to a woman under such circumstances. But Jesus did.*

1) When you were growing up, were there people you were told not to associate? Who?

2) How do you think the woman felt when Jesus, a Jew, talked to her? What thoughts might have gone through her mind?

3) Consider the hot Middle East climate. When, during a hot day, do you think you would go to fetch heavy buckets of water?

Sin can cause us to “hide”. How is that reflected in the woman getting water at high noon... why do you suppose this woman is drawing water at midday?

4) Describe the woman’s reaction to Jesus’ offer in verses 11-15.

What does Jesus say about this “living water”? In light of the burdens of life she is carrying, why do you think that it is so appealing to her (vv. 13-14)?

5) Jesus brings up her list of past marriages and current problematic relationships. He catches her in a lie when she responds with a half-truth saying, “I don’t have a husband”.

Why do you think the woman didn’t give up on this conversation when Jesus told her, “Go and get your husband”? What was it about her encounter with Jesus that freed her to be so transparent about her life?

Jesus Reveals Who He Is

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth. ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that the Messiah [Christ] is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

6) Jesus was Jewish and this woman knew that the Messiah would be a Jew. Now Jesus (the Messiah) points out that “true worshippers”, Jews and Gentiles (her) alike, would soon realize equality in Christ and worship Him “in spirit and truth”. This was a huge admission of love and acceptance to her, a ‘Samaritan’ Gentile.

Discuss how she might have felt about being treated this way by the “Messiah”.

Many Samaritans Believe

²⁷ Just then his disciples arrived. They were astonished to find him talking to a woman, but none of them asked him why he was doing it or what they had been discussing. ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and went back to the village and told everyone, ²⁹ “Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

³⁹ Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” ⁴⁰ When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay at their village. So he stayed for two days, ⁴¹ long enough for many of them to hear his message and believe. ⁴² Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe because we have heard him ourselves, not just because of what you told us. He is indeed the Savior of the world.”

7) How do you think the disciples would have treated this woman as compared to Jesus? How would their attitude influence their actions? Why?

8) This woman, who was traveling about hiding from the general public due to her sin and shame, now has an encounter with Jesus resulting in a significant change. She was ‘born again’!

Imagine her attitude and actions as she left Jesus and went back into town. What do you think she said? How do you think she said it? How do you think she was feeling?

By the reaction of the of the village people, how obvious was Jesus love and acceptance of her... what was their reaction?

9) How can a sense of personal self worth, of being loved, accepted and forgiven, affect the way you relate to others?

Wrap Up:

Ultimately, in an unloving world, it is important that we base our ultimate worth and love in Jesus Christ and not in others. Knowing this love of Jesus for you, who can you extend His love towards this week?

Prayer: How can we help one another through prayer today?