

## John Chapter 4:5-14

### Sermon – Saved by the Well

Something about this story tells you how to deal with and approach people the proper way.

Something about this story tells you the plans God has for us.

Something about this story will give new hope to people who have tried and failed all their lives.

Something about this story tells you the process for stepping into your best season ever.

Something about this story qualifies the unqualified and disqualified for greatness.

John 4:5-8

*<sup>5</sup>So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." <sup>8</sup>For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.*

Something about these verses tells you how to approach people and come correct when you are trying to get them to do right.

- Jesus meets her at Jacob's Well.
  - The Jews hated Samaritans but they both shared the history of Jacob's Well. So Jesus meets her on common ground. While there were significant differences, Jesus meets her at a place they can both relate to.
  - The application for today is likewise, we should find common ground that we can relate with the other person we are trying to reach.
    - Did you catch that? Find something in common in order to reach people.
- Jesus doesn't address her with a crowd around.
  - Don't call them out the first time in a crowd. Jesus has a personal conversation.
  - Let's be real here, you can call me out about my problem, but if you call me out in front of a crowd, that might be a problem for you.
    - It will certainly be much harder for me to receive the message you are trying to put down if I feel like you are attacking me in front of an audience the first time we meet.
    - That includes a crowd on social media.

Something about these verses tells me about God's desire for our life.

- Jesus said to her, give me a drink. His first words to her expresses his plan for her. Give me a drink in my opinion translates into 'I want you to do something for me'.
  - Give me a drink means I want you to serve me.
  - Give me a drink means I want you to be on my team.
  - Give me a drink means I'm interested in and looking for someone like you to work for me.
- Wait a minute....you know the story about this woman.
  - She is the freak of the week; 6 different men...looking for love in all the wrong places.
  - She had some failures in life; she had a bad reputation.
  - She was the wrong race, wrong background, and went to the wrong church.
- Jesus already knew she was messed up....not just messed up yesterday...she was messed up right now. But Jesus let's her know He still wants to use her. He still wants to be connected to her.
- Wait a minute, this must mean God also desires and has a plan to use me/us too.
- So just because I'm messed up, and just because I've got some mistakes on my record, just because I failed before, and I might be failing now, my past and my right now problems don't disqualify me or keep God from being interested in me.
- God can use people like me; God looks for people like me; God desires to use people like me. God pursues people like me.
  - Come on now....let me talk to the fellas for a minute. If you knew old girl had been married 5 times already....are you trying to hook up with her after that? Be honest. Probably not. She doesn't look like a good wife prospect so I doubt if too many fellas are going to be interested in her.
  - But Jesus is interested in her.
    - Application for Today: When everyone else has lost interest in you; God will pursue you...."behold I stand at the door and knock". If nobody else wants to spend time with you, God says you can hang out with Him.
  - Somebody ought to be excited because God looks for broken hearted people like me and tells me, I am interested in you working for me.

John 4:9

*Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. John 4:10-12*

*<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"*

Something about this story tells you how to deal with and approach people the proper way.

- The woman brings up the past issues and current situation. It is the truth, Jews didn't want anything to do with her kind.
- But look at Jesus, he doesn't argue with her about this truth, instead he gives her a greater truth....that God has a gift for you.
- Oh, rather than argue with folks over some things, don't miss the greater thing that God wants to do for you. Making the conversation about God and His plan for the person is a much better way of dealing with people.
  - Now the woman can stop looking at how prejudice Jews were to her and instead shift her focus to God.
  - The conversation is no longer about you and me, it is about you and what God wants to do for you...and through you. He has a gift and you receive it through Jesus the Christ.
- His response to her question is to introduce her to the gift of God. He informs her the following:
  - If you knew what God had for you...God has a gift for you.
  - If you knew who it is that is trying to talk to you...
  - If you knew those two things, then you would have asked me and received living water.
  - She was in position to receive something better and greater than what she came there looking for.

Something about this story tells you the process for stepping into your best season ever.

- The woman at first ain't picking up what Jesus is putting down. She looks at her situation and then looks at Jesus and says...
  - I don't see how you can help me. The well is too deep. The situation is too deep and too difficult for you to handle.
  - I don't see physically, how you can make this happen for me.
  - You ain't got the tools or financial backing to get me out of this situation. This ain't just knee deep....I'm in over my head.
- Next thing she says is we have been doing things this way ever since I can remember. Are you better than what I have been doing and trying all these years? My way has been working for me....been getting some relief from doing it this way. It don't last long, it runs out, but it works for me.
- The woman is respectful but doesn't believe yet. She can't see it yet because:
  - Can't physically see how it can be done. In the natural, it can't be done, don't have the tools or ability.
  - Can't reach the prize. The well or situation is too deep and relief is too far away and out of reach.
  - Can't see where he is going to get this water because it is impossible to pull it out of the well they are now.
  - Can't see it because her history and background and heritage is greater then what he says he can do.
    - The question she asks is can Jesus do better then what she has going on now?

- She already has a source of water, already has a means and a way to deal with what is missing.

*<sup>13</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."*

Jesus' answer is pointing out a fact about her current solution. You can keep doing what you are doing. It will give you temporary results, temporary relief and satisfaction....but you have to keep coming back to this place and this well. It can never take away the problem or the need for good. Not an everlasting or long term solution. It will only get you by for a moment.

- Gives her a better alternative. If you drink the water I have, it never runs dry, and you will never be thirsty like this again. You don't have to travel or do what you are doing now to get relief; instead the relief will be inside you and give you everlasting life. Everlasting benefits.

The woman goes through a three step process. It is the same process every believer must go through to be in right relationship with God.

1. Humility. She must have been humble enough to ask for this water. Humble enough by coming to the conclusion that this proposal is better than what she has and is doing now.
2. She repents. She wants to switch from the old way to a new and living way.
3. She has new hope. She asks for this gift from Jesus so that she won't be thirsty anymore and never have to go through this process again. She has a hope that she never has to come to this place again, like this again.

Something about this story tells you how to deal with and approach people the proper way.

- When you talking to other folks, do it like Jesus. He never criticizes her current plan or approach....at least not yet. Doesn't tell her that her way is stupid. Instead, he just tells her there is a better way. His way is a better way.

Now wait a minute....she doesn't want to ever have to come to this well again. But we know she will have to come to this well again.

- She doesn't want to ever come to the well again, but in the natural, she has to come to this well again. I think what she means is she doesn't want to ever come back to this well again like this!
- Did you catch that? She was talking about the natural, but Jesus is talking about the spiritual. Jesus always starts his work from the inside out.
- She must be saved. Because after this encounter with Jesus, she never has to come back to this well with her head hung in shame. Never has to be worried again about what other folks think about her. Doesn't have to carry that heartbreak and heartache there again.
- This ain't the last time she has to come to the well, but it's the last time she has to show up with that attitude.

- Somebody here today who has gone through the process knows, I still got to go to work on Monday....but I ain't gotta show up like I used too. I still gotta go home to those bad kids, but I ain't got to deal with it like I used to. Still gotta face the challenges of tomorrow, but I don't have to go there like I used to. Still gotta show up to the doctor and get a report, but I no longer have to show up in fear.
- Something on the inside of me has started to make a change you can start seeing on the outside.
- So when people ask me how come you can go through and still show up with a smile on your face? How can you suffer that kind of loss and still look like you're okay....I can tell them I was saved by the well. God gave me a gift through Jesus and now I never have to show up like that again. I've been changed.

John 4:16-19

*Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.*

I wonder why he asked her to get her husband. What was Jesus' objective here?

- Her **sin needed to be dealt with before he could use her** and progress through the process.
- At this point, she needs the Holy Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit reveals our sins, here Christ has shed light on her sins.
- Notice the compassion, he doesn't condemn her but continues the conversation.
- Her life problems cannot be ignored in order for her to be used and in right relationship with God. How Jesus deals with her is an example for us in dealing with others.
- The woman responds that she doesn't have a husband. Jesus' response is she is telling the truth and calls her out that she has had 5 husbands and working on number 6. Rick James might have said the girl is a super-freak.
  - But he never beats her up about it.

Something about this story tells you the process for stepping into your best season ever.

- Just like he wants to use this woman, he want to use you and me. She has gone through a 4 step process but God's number is 7, so she is not even seen God's best yet.
- Which means her best season is yet to come.

Something about this story will give people who have tried and failed all their lives a new hope.

- She has hope. It is not about race or background or your shaky past. Jesus tells her then and tells us now that there is a process and a plan that will get you back on the right track.

Something about this story qualifies the unqualified and disqualified for greatness.



- If this woman, with her past, can have new hope and receive a gift from Jesus and be used mightily for the Kingdom....then my mistakes do not disqualify me from being great.

Something about this story tells you how to deal with and approach people the proper way.

- Just before I started teaching this lesson from this same scripture to a class. A woman in the class had a prayer request. She asked that we pray for a loved one who was about to make some bad decisions that might adversely impact their life.
- After we finished the lesson, the woman confessed she was clearly intending to give this loved one a piece of her mind and confront her on these bad decisions. No doubt she was about to be rough. But because of this story....she said she was going to take a different approach and is going to talk to her like Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman in this story
- I think this loved one can find the same hope and a better life at the same well.

Jesus still waits at your well.

Delivered May 2019.