



THE THIRD WEEK

Read and reflect on John 4:5-42. Write down anything thoughts or questions you might have.

[illegible]

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 46

School/Apartment to Pray For:

Norrisville Elementary School / Apt 320

Devotional Reading:

The Gospel Has No Boundaries-Part 1

Let's start our discussion this week with the scandalous nature of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, which crosses all kinds of boundaries. But as we're going to see, the Gospel has NO boundaries!

The first boundary Jesus crossed was that he was talking to a woman. This hardly seems scandalous in our day and age, but in Jesus' time, a Jewish man would not be alone in public talking to a woman he was not related to (see **verse 27**).

The second boundary was the type of woman Jesus was talking to. I think the nicest way to put it is that this woman was of "ill-repute." Some evidence: she was drawing water alone, at noon, during the hottest part of the day (**verses 6-7**). Usually the women of the town would go out together during the cooler times (morning and/or evening), but this woman was left out. Also, she has had five husbands and was currently living with another man (**verses 17-18**). Neither of these things point to her having a good reputation.

But, the Gospel has no boundaries, and Jesus was determined to share the Gospel (AKA: Himself) with this woman, despite these boundaries. Gender and reputation are not boundaries that the Gospel is concerned with.

I'm hoping that it goes without saying that we are to follow His example. It's important that we understand that Jesus was led by the Spirit in all things, and as He sends us out, He expects us to follow not only His example, but the Spirit's leading. If you'd like a good example of how Jesus sent His disciples out to share the Gospel, read **Luke 10:1-12**.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 47

School/Apartment to Pray For:

North Bend Elementary School / Apt 321

Devotional Reading:

The Gospel Has No Boundaries-Part 2

Yesterday we saw that Jesus crossed the boundaries of gender and reputation in order to share the Gospel with a Samaritan woman. Today we'll see that He crossed the boundaries of race and religion.

The term, "Samaritan" refers to both a race and a religion (much like the term, "Jew"). Samaritans and Jews have a shared ancestry, but at the time of Jesus were enemies (this is key to understanding the parable of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10:25-37**). In **John 4:9** we are told that "Jews do not associate with Samaritans"; even if you use the milder translation, "Jews do not use dishes Samaritans use" you still get the idea that this was a boundary that Jesus wasn't supposed to cross!

In **John 4:20** the Samaritan woman points out one of the main religious differences between Samaritans and Jews: "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus used their religious differences as an opportunity to point the way to true worship.

In our world, race and religion are major boundaries between people, often limiting the sharing of the Gospel to between people of the same background. But Jesus shows us that the Gospel has no boundaries, and that we can share Him with anyone the Spirit leads us to.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 48

School/Apartment to Pray For:

North Harford Elementary School / Apt 322

Devotional Reading:

Living Water?

Jesus was an amazing teacher. He taught people on their level, using language and techniques that He was sure they would understand. Often, He used physical objects and ideas to teach about spiritual ones. In this particular passage, He does this twice; let's take a look at one today.

The setting of this entire passage is a well, so Jesus uses the idea of giving someone a drink of water to teach about the gift of the Holy Spirit, whom He refers to as, "living water" (**John 4:10, 13-14**). To this Samaritan woman, Jesus was talking about drawing water from a well, and in fact, "living water" might have sounded to her like Jesus was offering to dig a well in her own backyard (so she wouldn't have to come outside of town to this well). This conversation didn't stay long on the "living water" concept, but Jesus explains it more fully in **John 7:37-39**:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

When someone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to live "within them." This means that God is with us all the time, teaching and leading us from inside us. It took a bit more conversation for the Samaritan woman to come around, but Jesus is offering us more than just a drink of water, He is offering the "living water" of the Holy Spirit!

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 49

School/Apartment to Pray For:

North Harford Middle School / Apt 323

Devotional Reading:

The Harvest

It isn't just the Samaritan woman that Jesus is teaching in this passage, His disciples also get a lesson via everyday object and ideas. Jesus used the well to teach about the Holy Spirit, and now He is going to use the harvest to teach about sharing the Gospel.

The parable of the sower (**Mark 4:1-20**) is echoed here in **John 4:35-38**. The sower shares the Gospel with another person (plants the seed), while the reaper leads that person to Jesus (harvests the crop). While I hate the following terminology, it may help to think in terms of a sale: the sower begins talking to a potential customer about a product, while the reaper closes the sale. In Jesus' economy, often one sows and another reaps, but both earn a reward! And both are happy to be a part of the process, no matter then part they are asked to perform.

I'd like to be clear here, Jesus uses us as His hands, feet, and voice when it comes to sharing the Gospel. But, He is the one who calls people to Him (prevenient grace), convicts them of their sin and awakens their need for a savior (convicting grace), saves them (saving grace), and makes them into the people He created them to be (sanctifying grace). We have a part to play (whether sowing or reaping), but it is His work.

The fields are ripe for harvest, so let's get to work!

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Psalms Reading:

Psalm 50

School/Apartment to Pray For:

North Harford High School / Apt 324

Devotional Reading:

From Outcast to Evangelist

It's a pretty incredible journey this Samaritan woman takes in this passage. When we first meet her, she is an outcast who is drawing water from a well at the hottest part of the day, so as to avoid others. She has a life-altering conversation with Jesus where she recognized Him as the Messiah and the Savior she needs. After she comes to this realization, she runs back to town, to the people she was avoiding, to tell them the good news!

You've heard me say (a lot) that "Gospel" means, "good news," and here is a perfect example of that! This woman's heart, and therefore her life, were changed by this encounter with Jesus and she can't wait to share the "good news" with everyone else. She has moved from an outcast to an evangelist (someone who shares the Gospel with others).

One of the advantages of living during the time Jesus lived on earth was that if you wanted to tell someone about Him, you could potentially take them to meet Him in person. That's what happens here, and because she brings people out to meet Jesus, **verse 41** tells us that, "because of his words many more became believers." On some level she understood that her job was to bring people to a place where they could hear from Jesus Himself. I love the people's response in **verse 42**: "*We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.*"

What this woman did physically, we are able to do spiritually: lead people to a place where they can hear from Jesus!

GRACE AND TRUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday

9:00 AM: Grocery Shopping
**Dianna Tilton collects lists/
payment from 8-9AM**

12:30 PM: Worship Service

Via Zoom

**Gatherings also take place in
various apartments**

Thursday

10:00 AM: Coffee with the Pastor
**Host Apartment varies each
week**