

SEQUIM COMMUNITYCHURCH

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

The Woman at the Well

TURNING MESSES INTO MESSAGES

We never learn her name. She is simply called a Samaritan woman. Her conversation with Jesus is unique. In part this was because she was a woman. Females were not trusted and were not talked to by a Rabbi in public. In addition she was a Samaritan, a group of people who has intermarried with the nations around them and were no longer "pure-blooded" Jews. Finally she was a woman who had been married and divorced five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband. In spite of these things Jesus moved forward with His spiritual agenda for her life....and it was more than she expected or could have imaged.

Read John 4:4-42.

SMALL GROUP OPENER:

Sometimes we have one of those really good days...talk about a "good day" you experienced recently and what made that day so special to you? _____

Please read these verses and answer the following questions:

1. In reference to John 4:4-15 – note the topics that Jesus' and the woman at the well discussed

 - How did these topics connect the heart of this woman with the heart of God in a new way?

 - When Jesus was having his conversation with the woman at the well, where did Jesus and the woman use the same words but gave different meanings to those words? _____
2. Look closely at Jesus' treatment of this outcast woman. What does His example teach us about how we should treat those outside of the Christian faith or on the margins of society? _____
3. What was the Samaritan woman's "mess" and how did Jesus clean it up? _____
4. What are some of the shallow answers and quick fixes that Christians sometimes offer to people who are in the midst of a tough and messy time? _____

 - What are the dangers of such simplistic, canned answers? _____

5. Re-Read John 4:16-42. The woman at the well seems to want quick and convenient answers to solve her temporary problems. At first, she is not looking for the deeper spiritual solutions Jesus offers to her. How do you see this attitude in people today? _____

How have you seen this attitude filter into your own life? _____

6. How has God entered a messy situation or time of your life and, with his grace and power, turned it into a message? _____

7. Now read Luke 17:11-19. What do we learn about the power of Jesus to clean up messes and the place of thankfulness in this passage? _____

• What are some things you are grateful to God for today? _____

Going Further (Additional Study)

Jesus' relationship with the woman at the well was based on grace not works...that is very clear in that she was more than weak in works yet that did not stop Jesus from His desire to usher her into eternity.

Grace is about what God does for us. Some wrongly believe that a relationship with God is based on our efforts (works) yet as good as our works are they are not holy, pure, good enough. Instead of Jesus moving past the sinful (weak works) woman at the well He moves to her. In fact He very gracefully engages in conversation with the woman on her level.

Our relationship with Jesus is based on grace not works. Now let's look at what the Bible states about grace.

1. Read Psalm 145:8. What are the practical ways God shows His grace towards us? _____

2. Often we can't shake our need to prove ourselves to God. How does what Paul states in Romans 3:24 help us "shake" this very human tendency? _____

Our inability to be able to “work” our way into a relationship with God (or our way into heaven) is one of striking difference between Christianity and the other world religions. Almost all the other world religions have “works clause” or “ritual right ways” or “specific regulatory implications.” They are religions (and by definition a religion is humanities efforts to get to god) that focuses on what the worshiper must to do to strive towards a “happy” relationship with god. Christianity is not about what we “do” for God but about what God has “done” for us in Jesus Christ (therefore Christianity is a relationship with God by definition).

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Who gets the credit for our relationship with God? _____

2. What does Romans 4:16 tell us about God’s intentionality about being in relationship with Him?

- God clearly makes “the first move towards us” when comes to establishing a relationship with Him. What does this verse teach us about our response?
- In Romans 10:13, what grace-filled promise does God make to us, through the words of Paul, about our declaration of faith in Jesus Christ?
- Galatians 3:3 and Romans 5:8 both reenforce this theological, Biblical and practical reality.

3. Read James 4:6-8. Our relationship with God is fostered by what kind of attitude towards God?

4. In Romans 6:23, Paul wants us to understand that “our grace-filled relationship with God” has both a “day-to-day” and eternal implication.