

Family Dinner Discussion

So Loved - Week 6: “Living Water”

INTRO

(Question:) When was a time that you felt exposed — particularly in regards to an area of shame or embarrassment? How did you respond?

(Transition:) We are looking at the Gospel of John in our series entitled, “So Loved.” We are seeking to understand the love of God that was displayed in Christ Jesus. As we read our text be thinking about these questions: “What am I thirsty for? How does Jesus address my thirst?”

READ the text from John aloud.

DISCUSS

- Let’s start by noting some background elements to this text. Who are the Samaritans? What was the relationship like between them and the Jews of the day? What is the significance of Jesus determining to pass through Samaria?
- Why was this woman coming to the well at this time of day (the “sixth hour” was the hottest time of the day, during which almost no one would come to the well)? What are her motivations?
- Why does Jesus get so direct with the statements about her husband/s? Does this seem loving to you?
- What do you know about shame? How would you characterize it in distinction from guilt? (Pass out the “Guilt vs. Shame” handout. Discuss.)
- How does the woman respond to Jesus’ exposing comments in vv. 16-18? What do you tend to do when you feel shame — when you are exposed?
- In vv. 21-24 Jesus says that God is seeking worshipers. How does this address our shame? In what ways is worshipping God in spirit and truth the answer to our shame?
- What is the significance of living water in the cultural and biblical context? Why did Jesus use that image? In what ways is having our thirst exposed an act of love? What does Jesus do with our thirst?

CONCLUDE & PRAY

We all thirst in life. We seek meaning, satisfaction, and security in things of this world. This can be relationships, romance, career success, social networks, appearances, competencies, etc. These are good things. The problem is when good things become ultimate things — when they become that upon which we stake our hopes and identity. Only God can satisfy those longings. We were made to worship Him, to be filled with His life, to drink from the wellsprings of His love. We will face failure, rejection, loss, etc. in this life. This produces shame, because it strikes at our sense of self. God draws near to us in this. Like Jesus meeting the woman at the well, the light of the world exposes our thirst to quench it with Himself. In love He goes to the cross to endure the ultimate thirst for us, to embrace our shame, so that He might win us back as worshippers who are filled with the life of God. Let’s pray that we embrace the exposure of our thirst and turn toward the living waters.

John 4:1-30, 39-42

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him....

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

GUILT

I did something wrong.

I need forgiveness.

I failed.

I broke a rule.

I made a mistake.

I didn't do enough.

I disappointed you.

I hate what I did.

I've broken your trust.

I've been caught.

SHAME

Something's wrong with me.

I need to be different.

I'm a failure.

I'm a broken person.

I'm a mistake.

I'm not enough.

I'm a disappointment.

I hate who I am.

I'm not trustworthy.

I've been seen.