

SHAKE THE

Nations

10/6/2024 PASTOR JASON SMOTHERMAN

THE SEVENTH MAN

JOHN 4:5-20

Jesus had to pass through Samaria. Jesus was a Jew and had never walked on Samaritan soil. There was a deep hatred among Samaritans and Jews. As a matter of fact, on the border there was constant fighting. Many Jews would go burn down the houses of Samaritans at night and the Samaritans did the same to the Jews.

The Bible said He "had" to go through Samaria. Some of your translations will say He "needed" to go through Samaria. Because there was a woman there He had chosen.

1. HE CHOSE HER

There's something about being chosen that feels good. People mean well when they tell their testimonies and say they found God, but how many know God was never lost. The Bible says in John 15:16 "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." Whenever there is a call, you don't have to be jealous or intimidated because there are no contenders. God has called and chosen you.

It says in Ephesians 1:4, "He chose us before the creation of the world." Do you know how long God has been thinking of you? Before he ever hung a star, before the sun had ever set, before the moon had made its first orbit God was planning your salvation.

Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." "Knew" can be translated: "I chose you." He chose her, that's why He needed to go there.

It's noon time in the beating heat. He's resting in the shadow of the well and here comes this woman to the well. Women never came to the well at this time of day because it was too hot. They would come just before dawn or just before dark. Not her, she is known in the town for having been married five times and is now living with a man who is not her husband. That may be acceptable in today's culture, but in Jesus' time it was not only unacceptable, she was considered a social outcast. A social leper, if you will.

Here she comes across the desert at noon time because it was the only time she was guaranteed to be alone. It's been made plain to her that she can come as long as no one is there. You can read in her face the deep lines of rejection, hurt and pain. The five divorces have left their mark on her as she has prematurely aged.

However, she felt somewhat safe that day as she came to the well. She didn't worry about those Jewish men sitting there; she knew they would have nothing to do with her.

But Jesus does the unquestionable. He says in verse 7, "will you give me a drink?" Now verse 8 says the disciples have gone into town to buy food.

This is what the unconditional love of God looks like when it is clothed in human flesh. By him asking her for a drink He is saying, "I respect you totally as a human being." She was shocked! John is looking for some place to hide, possibly a rock to crawl under. Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman; much less He is doing it publicly?

In verse 13 Jesus says, "anyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." In the Greek it means: will come back over and over and over. It is considered a repeated action.

We don't really understand thirst. We hear people say, "I am dying of thirst." Even in the hot summer desert of Las Vegas they are not that far from water, but these people were. These desert people understood the concept of thirst. When you are dying of thirst your tongue is cracking, your lips are parched, and you are bent over with pain in your entire body. When you are dying of thirst it is something people say you will never forget.

Jesus says, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but the water I give him will make him thirst no more." We have needs. When God created us: he created us with needs only He can fill. They are built in us; God put a need to be loved in us.

I want someone who knows everything about me; the good, the bad and the ugly, but still loves me. That is unconditional love. God has built in us the need for acceptance and security, to feel the invisible hug of God.

Human beings know they are special, but they don't know why. We are made in the image of God. I find the meaning of my existence, my relationships, and my significance in God. It is there I discover my worth. If I don't know who I am then I turn to Hollywood, the secular humanist or the college professor to tell me who I am.

The Bible says, "Confessing to be wise they became fools." All the time believing the lie Satan told them. That you, independent of God, can be God. This is the lie from the beginning. There is a hole in me that only God can fill. And if I don't turn to God I have to find somebody or something to fill that hole. So man draws on his own creativity to find ways to fill the hole.

In Jeremiah 2:15 it says, "my people have committed two sins, they have forsaken the spring of living water and they have dug their own cisterns; cisterns that cannot hold water." God says, first of all, "they left me" and secondly, "they set up an independent source of water."

What are sources of water people look for today? Money, education, power, fame, drugs, alcohol, sex. What is man trying to do? He is trying to satisfy with the flesh what can only be satisfied with the spirit of God. There is something in me and if I don't fill it with God I have to fill it with something else.

2. HE CHALLENGES HER

Why does he bring up her past in verse 15-16? Because before you drink you need to know why you are thirsty or you might make the mistake that the gift of God is just another high. So many people come to God and they just want to add him to their resume. People say things like, "you're a good person, but give your life to Jesus and you'll be a better person." That is not the gospel. People say, "Try God," but God isn't a diet. You simply can't try God. You come to Jesus and make him Lord of your life. We come humbly at the foot of the cross where the ground is level because we all come to him the same way.

In receiving the gift of God you are turning from all your broken cisterns to the foundation of water. In verse 16 Jesus tells her to go get her husband. Here, he is having her face the problem.

When Jesus is talking with her, notice there is no condemnation. He is not verbally assaulting her. He is not displeased with her. If he had been self righteous and preachy she would have left. Have you ever been around self righteous Christians? We all have a friend who is more interested in winning an argument than winning someone to Jesus.

People can hurt people in the name of God. They can cause people to not want to serve God. Maybe you have been hurt by a church or by someone who calls himself a Christian.

Look how Jesus deals with her. Unconditional love is displayed. Jesus is reaching her heart. He doesn't parade His personal holiness in front of her, nothing she has done shocks Him. He was simply revealing her problem: it was thirst. Notice he does not deal with the problem until He first has given her hope.

If all you do is notice the external problems: drugs, sex, alcohol, then all you can do is tell someone how guilty they are. So you push them further into despair and drive them away from anything that might give them hope. Jesus makes it safe to talk about your problems. Your problem is thirst.

He is right in front of you: the Seventh Man. She says to him, "I see you are a prophet." Then she does something unique. She says, "You want to talk church? I can do that." She knows how to handle men. She says in verse 20, "Our fathers

worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim the place you must worship is Jerusalem." She was letting Jesus know she knew how to speak religiously.

Her perception of God was simply religious. It was religious politics and meaningless theology and church splits. This woman's life was a blood bath of pain, brutality and hurt and her concept of the church was petty religious arguments.

The church has done a pretty good job in the last twenty-five years of telling people what we are against, but we have done a lousy job telling people what we are for.

The left abandons standards in the name of compassion and the right abandons compassion in the name of standards. We don't have to abandon either! We preach the kingdom and all the little stuff will take care of itself.

3. HE CHANGES HER

In verse 29 she runs back to town and tell them she "met a man." A real man, He was the first person to probe her darkness and love her at the same time. He knew what she had done and He didn't shame her. See, religion takes the woman caught in adultery and throws her down in front of Jesus. But, Jesus handles things differently. He makes it safe to come into the light.

God's love cannot be multiplied, divided or subtracted from. God does not love some more than others. He does not love some less than others. God's love is unchanging and universal. It is unlimited. It cannot be earned or lost. You can reject it; God will not force anything on you, but he loves you unconditionally whether or not you deserve it.

God is love. Should He cease to stop loving He would cease to be God. The proof of love is the cross, where God's love penetrated our sins. As awful as sin was, God's love broke through and He rescued us. 1 John 4:7-8 tells us LOVE is God's nature.

A lot of people have trouble receiving Gods love because they have a hard time trusting. Many people have a distorted view of love because they think it's a feeling. Love isn't based on emotion. People get skeptical of God's love because they see the inconsistent love of man.

It should be out of hunger, not guilt that we pray and read our Bibles. There is no condemnation. It should be, "I want to" not, "I have to." God is not looking down at us, disappointed.

Repentance doesn't change Gods facial expression. Repentance is for our benefit. In the Greek it means: change of mind. God knows the good, bad and ugly and still loves us.