

Too Messy For Jesus?

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I 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 won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."
- John 4:7-26 (NIV)

The two foundational truths we believe about Jesus is that

His love for us is proactive and personal.

There are three ways that you can respond to the Lord's amazing invitation:

I. Respond with fear because you might be rejected .

"The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)" John 4:9

II. Respond with false religion .

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet." John 4:19

III. Respond with humble faith .

"They said to the woman, "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." John 4:42

Small Group Questions

1. Read the passage John 4:1-26 all the way through. This entire exchange occurred in the midst of a "normal day" in the life of a marginalized, hurting person. What hope does that give you about God's potential for your life today?
2. In the message, we talked about the fact that the Lord is both **proactive** and **personal**. How is this different from what most of us grew up thinking about how we approach God?
3. We said there were three possible responses (not just 2). What are the two most common responses? What is the third one, which most people fall into? Share where you struggle, or someone that you know struggles, with religion instead of relationship when it comes to knowing Jesus.
4. Though much could be made of the focus of worship in this passage, our primary focus is the "gift of God" which is eternal life. This all comes from Him as a "gift of grace" (Eph. 2:8-9). What is your understanding of grace and how do you seize it on a daily basis as a source of power for living and trusting in Christ?