

**Nameless: Stories of Grace for the Brokenhearted**  
**The Search For True Worshipers**  
Patrick Murphy  
May 12, 2019

Intro: Astonished at Jesus' ability to relate to everyone. To be confident yet meek. Convicting and comforting., Patient and Just, Proper and Informal. I expect only great things when I am near to Jesus. Everyone he interacts with in Scripture is lead to either believe or reject his message and work. What is his message? To believe he is the only son of God, The Christ, The Messiah. **What is his work? To create true worshipers of God.**

Thesis: Jesus creates true worshipers.

TS: Imagine being in a land where you are an outsider.

**John 4:1-9 The woman is astonished that Jesus would talk to her.**

1. Jesus' departure from Judea lead him through Samaria
  - a. Had to – Jesus, guided by the Spirit, enters Samaria to accomplish what the Lord has for him to do.
  - b. History of Samaria
    - i. Northern Tribe scattered and 5 new people groups move in and intermarriages take place.
    - ii. Upon the return of the Exiled Jews from Babylon, a rivalry develops between the Jews and Samaritans. The Jews consider the Samaritans Half-breeds at best and an abomination at worst. Rich animosity presided over their relationships. They would kill one another, desecrate each other's places of worship.
    - iii. The three roads between Jewish Galilee and Judea existed along the coast, right through Samaria, and east of the Jordan river.
  - c. Jesus, as rabbi would, would not have gone through Samaria but he did.
2. 6<sup>th</sup> Hour
  - a. Noon – Hottest and brightest part of the day. Not a time to fetch water.
  - b. Jesus' weary state from walking led him to the well.
  - c. The woman who we don't know much about, but we can know about her is what is most scandalous about her. Samaritan and Jewish morality were close enough we can assume she is not welcome to walk with the other women to get water in the morning and is avoiding the confrontation she would otherwise endure.
  - d. She is the lowest of the Low

**<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> 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.)**

3. Give me a drink
  - a. Jesus perfectly follows and enjoys the confines of Godliness established by God, but boundaries set by man he has no problem breaking.

- b. Men don't talk to women in public and a Man of Jesus' status would never be caught talking to a woman let alone an ostracized Samaritan woman.
  - c. Woman's Response
    - i. Why are talking to me?
    - ii. Why are you entering my world?
    - iii. Despite every reason for not creating a relationship, Jesus demonstrates a fantastic truth: Jesus is more interested in the blessing he wants to give rather than what mark they may have on his reputation or identity.
4. Example
- a. Are you out of bounds for Jesus because you don't fit the mold?
  - b.

TS: Jesus' actions certainly got her attention and sparked her curiosity to investigate why he would talk to her. But Jesus' request turns into an investigation of her. He begins by addressing what she thinks she needs.

**John 4:10-15 The woman doesn't know what she needs.**

**<sup>10</sup> 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."  
<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."**

- 1. If you knew
  - a. Samaritans only studied the Pentateuch or the first 5 books of the OT.
  - b. She doesn't study or know what the OT prophets had to say about the coming messiah or what to be expecting from God.
  - c. What gift from God?
    - i. What is the gift that she needs have?
    - ii. Living Water – Literally means water that is moving or fresh, but Jesus is using the term based on OT references to God and the H.S.
      - 1. Jer 2:13 –
        - <sup>13</sup> for my people have committed two evils:  
 they have forsaken me,  
 the fountain of living waters,  
 and hewed out cisterns for themselves,  
 broken cisterns that can hold no water.**
      - 2. Isaiah 44:3
        - For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
 and streams on the dry ground;  
 I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,  
 and my blessing on your descendants.**
    - iii.
  - d. Who am I?

- i. Who does she need to know?
- 2. She misses his offer because she interprets him literally.
  - a. What do you have? You have no way to get me “living water.” Haven’t you heard someone or even yourself utter statement like, “Jesus you have no way satisfying what I am thirsty for.”
  - b. Are you greater than Jacob? There is no way you can be better than Jacob. She might even be contemplating “There is no way you can do something better for me than what Jacob has already done for me and my people.”
  - c. With statements like these we might abandon the conversation and leave the woman to live out the rest of her life as is. Christ is here to accomplish God will by seeking and saving the lost.

**<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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.” <sup>15</sup> 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.”**

- 3. Jesus is patient with her as he draws her into a spiritual understanding of his message.
  - a. We are being moved from a merely physical understanding of this world to a profoundly spiritual one.
  - b. EX ... Think about the person who is attempting to satisfy their longing for joy and contentment by perusing wealth and status among their peers. Everyone knows this is the worst way to satisfy that need and yet people don’t have a better solution so they keep their life headed in that direction. Jesus is helping her realize what she truly needs is something that is not physical or superficial but spiritual.
  - c. Does she know what she needs? The answer is no, so Jesus says it again directly.
- 4. Living Water ... Eternal Life
  - a. Is she unaware of her need for eternal life?
  - b. Yes because she is not familiar with the promises of life after death. The Pentateuch don’t mention an afterlife. You can check but without the Prophets you will have a hard time creating a convincing argument about what is to happen after one dies. So Jesus adds this phrase as an enticement to perk her interest and to draw further in the search for what she needs.

TS: She Not perceiving either the gift he is offering or who he is, Jesus turns up the heat to break through to her directly.

### **John 4:16-20 The woman is confronted by truth.**

**<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”**

1. Go get your husband

- a. She doesn't have one and her responses up to this point were quite long, but this one is short. Jesus has brought up a sore subject, or a subject of guilt and shame.
- b. Jesus will confront us using anything about us. In this woman's case the truth of her life will be the means Jesus uses to convey who he is and what he wants to have.
- c. Would you ever think of focusing on someone's pain or discomfort to refine who they are or what they are thinking? Probably not. Instead we dance around the subject or try to avoid it all together. I know all too well by how the H.S. leads me to say some very direct statements to people to help them move closer to Christ.
  - i. It has also happened to me. During one summer I took 2 classes in a 3 week intensive course. Eleven other students, 3 professors, their families, and I went up to a retreat center in Idlewild Ca. The experience transformed a lot of my understanding about my relationship with Christ and on the last day before we headed home, I was contemplating what it meant to be truly manly. 30 Minutes after having thought about it one of the other students approached me and in a calm and clear voice said, "The Lord wants me to say to you, **'Manliness is not found in superficial exteriors but through the enjoyment and worship of God.'**"
  - ii. If you had asked before how I thought I would have responded to something like that I would have probably said, "ashamed and guilty." Because I was supposed to be a leader and an example to follow. But I didn't feel any of that. Instead I was encouraged and filled with hopeful expectation because the Lord revealed to me his will. Her response is similar. "You are a prophet."

2. You are a prophet.

- a. I love how she doesn't marvel how he knows that. Instead she perceives that she is speaking to someone who is worthy to know.
- b. Our Father's worshiped...
  - i. Why does she ask this question? On the surface she is asking because she wants to know whether her worship is right or not. But, beneath the surface what is she longing for?
  - ii. Intimacy or closeness with God. Her sin and shame are a sign of searching for something in men that can't be satisfied in them. Jesus doesn't bring up her sin to bring her to greater guilt and shame but to free her from an endless search to be **Known and Loved by God.**
  - iii. She is longing for a relationship
    1. She came alone
    2. She has had many partners
    3. She needs a relationship with God
    4. And Now she is talking with the man who could give her what she has been searching for all these years.

TS: Her longing culminates in a promise she has been told. A promise to hear from one who has the authority and wisdom of God. She shares with the prophet in front of her great hope. And little does she realize but she is about to meet the one she hopes for.

## **John 4:21-25 The woman meets the Truth.**

**<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

1. Worshiping the Father was going to change.
2. Jesus doesn't sacrifice the truth in order to show more grace. He stands by the truth that the messiah would come from the Jews and the temple in Jerusalem is the proper place of worship, but that is going to be destroyed.
3. Access to God and worshiping him will be anywhere and everywhere because the new conditions for those things will no longer be physical but spiritual.
4. What is spirit and Truth?
  - a. Negatively - Worship is no longer tied to sacred places. There is nothing special about this building or any building that either amplifies or nullifies our worship of God.
  - b. Positively – **Honoring God with our entire hearts in full harmony with the Truth about God revealed through His Word.**
    - i. It can't be all heart felt emotions and meditation without the truth about God. – All desert and no meat like a pop radio songs often are.
    - ii. It also can't be reciting the truth about God absent of our complete heartfelt devotion – Like dry liturgy.

**<sup>25</sup> 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.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”**

5. She heard him talk about the truth and knew the Messiah will bring the truth.
6. Put this story together and ask yourself would you be asking what she is asking right now?
  - a. A man talking to woman, A Jew talking to a Gentile, Sin and Shame exposed, told your worship isn't good enough. Where would you be? Jesus has revealed what she was truly longing for, the truth about God. She is longing for the messiah to come and tell her the truth about everything. Help her know just what to do about her sinful condition and that of her people.
  - b. Brothers and Sisters, do we desire for the truth like her? Do we long for the truth like she does, waiting for it to be revealed?
    - i. It has been revealed in the GodMan Jesus.
    - ii. He plainly shows her that He is the one who holds all truth.

TS: The Woman astounded by what has happened runs into town and shares with her people who she has found. Like Jesus they all know

## **John 4:39-42 The woman led her town worship the Truth.**

**<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> 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."**

1. She testifies to the Truth and the people come out to meet the Truth from themselves.
  - a. The people essentially say, "You told us the truth."
  - b. Now their belief is cemented through a personal relationship to Jesus. They worship him in spirit and in truth by correctly testifying that he "indeed is the Savior of the world."
2. We don't know her name but none the less she has revealed to us the truth. Christ has come to make true worshipers of God.

What well are going to each and everyday to satisfy the longing you have inside? I hope it is the well of truth, a well of living water, to Christ. Remember, I am astonished by his message, love, and ability to relate to everyone. But most importantly, I am astonished that he knows me.

Prayer - Our Lord and our God, reveal to us the truth. Help us to see Christ and believe his message that we may glorify your name above every other name. Move us to worship you in spirit and truth as a declaration of what Christ came to do in our lives has been accomplished. In His name we pray. Amen.