

GO! Home

Part 2- When Our Story Becomes Their Story

o INTRO: GO! Home 2 Week Mini-Series

- o Looking at how the stories of what Jesus has done to/for us are meant to have massive implications on the lives all around us
- o Summer's here so we have more opportunities than ever to engage those around us & share w/ them what Jesus has/is doing
- o Summer isn't a break from mission- God's not on vacation...☺
- o Last week we looked at the life of a man who was completely destroyed by demons until Jesus showed up & set him free
- o This man went & told everyone around him how he had met Jesus & Jesus had had mercy on him which they could see/tell
- o This led to everyone in that region being amazed at Jesus
- o This week we're looking at a woman who had a similar experience
- o These are case studies of people who met w/ Jesus show us what it is meant to look like when you & I meet Jesus & live changed
- o Their lives were changed, but it wasn't private/secretive
- o It was public & led to their cities & beyond being impacted...
- o What we are hoping for is not just that people would be impressed that we have new lives or that we've "found religion"
- o What success looks like is when us telling our stories leads to those who hear them meeting Jesus too & getting their own story
- o This is why we are focusing this morning on this particular lady...
- o John 4:1-42- "Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making & baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea & departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 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. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 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 w/ Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, & who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, & he would have

given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water w/, & the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well & drank from it himself, as did his sons & his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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." 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." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, & come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, & the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, & is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, & those who worship him must worship in spirit & truth." 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." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking w/ a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking w/ her?" So the woman left her water jar & went away into town & said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town & were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me & to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I

tell you, lift up your eyes, & see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages & gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower & reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows & another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, & you have entered into their labor." **Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."** So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay w/ them, & he stayed there two days. And **many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, & we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."**

- Well, there's a lot going on there- Jesus hangs out w/ a lady who sleeps around, disciples are worried about what to eat, a whole village shows up to see if Jesus really is the Savior of the World...
- Let's take a few minutes to break this down using this woman as an example of what it looks like for us to meet Jesus
- There's so much happening in this that we need a minute just to understand who she was & what was going on in her life...

1. She Was Desperate For Satisfaction

- The glaring thing that comes out every time she talks is that she is a woman who is "thirsty" in general for deep satisfaction
- How do we see that? What was she doing to satisfy herself?
- **Tried Getting Satisfaction Through Basic Essentials**
- She's there to get water- everyone in the world needs water
- This was an attempt to find some satisfaction for a thirst she had
- Well, maybe that doesn't seem like such a bad thing...
- **Tried Getting Satisfaction Through Religious Traditions**
- Right away she's name dropping from the Old Testament
- We learn from several things she says that she puts a lot of stock in drinking from a sacred well & worshipping on a sacred hill
- Location of big moments in religious history is super important for her & she feels a sense of pride because she is there
- Well, maybe that doesn't seem like too bad of a thing either...
- **Tried Getting Satisfaction Through Sexual Promiscuity**
- While the first two things we learn don't seem too risqué, what we see from her sexual history is that this lady hasn't just stayed on the safe, acceptable roads that promise satisfaction

- She has, maybe in moments of great pain & desperation, wandered down darker paths that have put her in bed w/ man after man in an attempt to numb the pain of emptiness she felt
- Well, thankfully she's nothing like you & me right...Wrong!

2. We Just Summed Up What Everyone In The Room Deals W/...

- In one way or another, we are all just like this woman
- We are looking for deep satisfaction in the same ways as her
- Some through basic essentials- if I just can get a roof over my head, pay the bills, have food & water...you still won't be happy
- Some through religious tradition- if I just go to church every week, pray the right prayers, have an hour quiet time...still won't
- Some through darker avenues- multiple sexual partners, pornography, drugs, drinking, gambling, etc...
- See, she was clearly a mess- but no greater of a mess than us!
- What we also have in common w/ her is that she didn't know she was a mess either- she was just going through the motions thinking that eventually she'd find the satisfaction she craved
- She got water, worshipped on the right mountain & slept around when the previous two didn't quiet offer what she needed
- When we face her brokenness, it's like a mirror for our own
- Her story isn't powerful because it's so different than ours; it's powerful because, thousands of years later, it's just like ours!
- What Does Jesus do w/ such a broken, messed up woman?

3. Jesus Confuses Her:

- The first thing that Jesus does is really confuse this woman
- I say that because some of you might be thinking, "I like Jesus, but there's some stuff about Him I can't get my head around"
- See, Jesus identifies w/ us, but He's way bigger than us
- This means that if we see Him correctly, we'll be confused
- When we look at this woman it's like a looking into a mirror...
- But, when we look at Jesus, it's like comparing ourselves to the greatest picture of what we could & should be- it's staggering
- Confused: She can't figure out how He's going to get better water w/ no bucket. She can't understand why He, a Jew, is willing to engage her & talk w/ her because she's a Samaritan
- Jesus will promise to do things in your life that you can't believe
- Jesus will make even you uncomfortable w/ how comfortable He, the Son of God, is w/ being beside you in your deepest pain

- After Jesus thoroughly confused her...He begins to dismantle all of her futile attempts to satisfy herself...

4. Reveals How Basic Essentials Can Only Bring Momentary Relief

- This water that you are going to get will bring a little relief
- However, it will run out & then you'll have to come back again
- There's a lot of shows about living in extreme conditions
- The basic plot of all of these shows is one thing- continuing to go out & get the same essentials again & again & again & again
- This is not something that we've fixed. The essential things we need like water, air, food- we never have enough of them
- There's no quality of water on the planet that can fix that issue
- You & I can drink Fiji water & then need more water again...
- Like her, we need to know that our most basic essentials can never fully satisfy us. Like her, we will continually need more...
- Well, after showing her how her that, Jesus goes a step further...

5. Exposes Her Worthless Hope In Religious Tradition To Bring Life

- She boasted that the well she drew water at was where Jacob's cows used to drink...she even called him, "Our Father Jacob"
- She also boasted in the mountain where they were because it was a mountain where God had been glorified millenniums ago
- Well, this is nice information, but the problem is that it's ancient
- She had no CURRENT knowledge of God, she had no PERSONAL knowledge of God- all she had was a lot of sentiment & tradition
- VS. 22a- "You worship what you do not know"
- "Wow, Jesus, that's kind of harsh...can't you just let her be???"
- No. Jesus can't because the reality was, this too like the water, was another useless attempt to find satisfaction for herself
- All this ever did was make her feel warm & fuzzy= useless!
- At the end of her life, all she could say was, "Let me in to Heaven because I drank at Jacob's well &...special mountain"
- That would never be enough for a Holy God- it was all sentiment
- Like her, we do this- we imagine ourselves being justified because we do the right religious stuff or because of historical...
- So many in church today have no personal/current relationship w/ God- all they have is what she had- is that all that you have?
- Well, Jesus has revealed the worthlessness of her attempts to be satisfied through mere water & through religious traditions...
- If we can imagine being her, this would be hard stuff to realize...
- The next thing Jesus does is incredibly unsettling...

6. Lovingly Exposes Her Sexual Brokenness

- VS. 16- “Go call your husband...”
- What Jesus did is to reveal that her problems were deeper & more dangerous than just looking to water to bring her life
- But HOW Jesus did this was truly remarkable
- Remember who Jesus was- “sinless Son of God” “Holy”
- Jesus was the One who was chiefly sinned against in all sin
- Now, perfect Jesus, not you & me, is speaking w/ a woman who has had 5 husbands (even a lot in today’s time) & is living w/ a man who is not her husband right now
- We’d expect Jesus to be moved by disgust, hatred, judgment
- Jesus, we think, should call this woman a “whore...” or worse
- But that’s not what Jesus does. He’s kind in how He treats her
- Then reveals that He knows “all she ever did” (imagine that!)
- But His language is full of compassion & kindness
- He’s dealing w/ a woman who has moved past water & wells
- She has a long string of very hurtful & shameful attempts...
- Between every man she must of thought, “never again” or “again, but not w/ a man like that” or “just one more time”
- In between those moments, no doubt, there were trips to the well, trips to the sacred mountain...promises to do better...
- But, every time she broke her promises to God & to herself
- She was now back in a relationship that was a dead end street
- This man could never satisfy her & she could never satisfy him
 - Two half-people don’t equal a whole relationship
- They were destined to just feed off each other’s brokenness...
- We can see her...feel how exposed she must be feeling...
- But Jesus doesn’t leave her there, thankfully...

7. Declares He’s The Answer To What She’s Always Searched For

- VS. 25-26 - “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.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”
- Jesus wasn’t just a better version of Jacob’s Well, Jesus was THE Water/Bread of Life He promised would bring Eternal Satisfaction!
- John 6:35- “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, & whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”
- Jesus says, BELIEVE IN/WORSHIP Me, not that mountain; DEPEND on Me like you depend on that well...& you will be SATISFIED!

- So, this is a lot more than this woman expected when the day started out- how does she respond from this talk w/ Jesus???

8. She Abandons Her Water Jar

- This might seem insignificant, might even be insignificant, but it's very telling of what frame of mind this woman was in...
- She is so amazed by Jesus that she's forgotten her most primal needs, her priorities have completely been turned upside down
- She's not interested in water anymore...she's on another mission!

9. She Goes Home & Tells Everyone About Jesus

- She tells "the people" which literally means, "mankind"
- She told everything w/ a pulse that they needed to meet Jesus
- You & I can imagine the skepticism, but clearly something had taken place for this sexual woman to be excited about a man who had made no advances on her, but had instead exposed her
- The last thing we think we'd do is brag about what had happened
- But, she can't shut up about it- & she's so persuasive that they listen & the entire town goes to the well to meet Him personally
- They could see & hear that something was different- you too??
- Their response is amazing...

10. Many Samaritans From THAT Town Believed

- Her story led to them meeting Jesus & having their own story!
- It wasn't isolated & disconnected- it was because of her story!
- They wanted what had happened to her to happen to them!
- Well, that's how they responded, what about you & I?

RESPONSE:

○ Christians, Let's Learn From Jesus:

- Is there anything confusing about our lives or are our lives indistinguishable from the lives of those who don't know Jesus?
- Do we genuinely love people, or are we condescending of them, seeing them as projects that need fixing, not people like us?
- Are we courageous, do we speak up when people are putting their hope in sentimentality, or do we stand back & watch knowing that it's not enough to save them but afraid to offend?

○ Christians, Let's Learn From The Disciples:

- They, like the crowd last week, completely missed the headlines
- Their contribution to this story is so weak it's embarrassing
- They leave to buy food, they get offended Jesus was talking to a sinful woman & they are obsessed w/ the fact that He's not eating
- Jesus was exhausted & alone & the 1 person He met led to...

- They were together in a city & no one had their lives changed
- Wow, we are a lot like them sometimes...maybe all the time☺
- We can be together around tons of people & no one gets changed
- We can really blow it sometimes by missing what God's doing
- I love this- Jesus didn't fire the disciples & start over w/ these...
- Jesus re-envisioned them by reminding them what's important
- What Jesus tells them/us is, "The Fields Are White W/ Harvest"
- He reminds us our, "Food is to do the will of Him who sent us!"
- "God's at work all around you & I- let's be part of that work!"
- Jesus doesn't want to fire us for doing poorly, but remind us of the potential we have as carriers of this New Life He's given us!
- **All Of Us- Let's Learn From This Woman?**
- Are you & I looking to any of the following to satisfy us?
 - Religious sentimental tradition(s)?
 - Basic Essentials like food/water?
 - Darker things like Sexual Immorality?
- If you answered, "No," you're lying☺ Seriously...
- Of course we look to this stuff- it's our default mode to do so
- We don't need to live in denial; we need to live in repentance!
- Christians, this is how we respond- we repent & move forward
- Not yet- know that that stuff will always leave you more thirsty & desperate- it can never satisfy you- only Jesus can do that!
- Come to Jesus, today & find what you're craving

COMMUNION:

- Jesus isn't meant to a new form of sentimentality or religion
- He actually gives us new life & satisfies our deepest longings
- We come to take communion to remind ourselves of that
- Matthew 14:22-24- "And as they were eating, he took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to them, & said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, & when he had given thanks he gave it to them, & they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."
- Jesus didn't just talk a good game about satisfying our hunger & thirst for all eternity- He gave His own body to accomplish it!
- Today when we come to communion, we are saying, "Jesus you are enough for us- we are deeply satisfied in You. We don't need anything else because of what You have done for us."

BAPTISMS: (MHC)

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