

LEADING INTO THIS LOVE

REVEALING OUR NEED

John 4:1 – 42

Pastor Daniel Hahn

February 1/2, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

The kind of unexpected moment no one would have predicted:

- A trek through forbidden territory
- A noon time meeting in the sweltering heat
- A Jewish rabbi talking to a Samaritan woman

*In the midst of the religious caste system, Jesus appeared. To the Pharisees' dismay He had no qualms about socializing with children or sinners or even Samaritans. He touched, or was even touched by, the "unclean:" those with leprosy, the deformed, a hemorrhaging woman, the lunatic and possessed. — Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew**

The sort of defining moment Jesus offers every one of us:

1. Jesus is always crossing over cultures, pushing past prejudice and reaching out to helpless people without hope (John 4:3 – 9).

*Perhaps you've noticed: Jesus encountered one moral mess after another, and He was never taken aback by anyone's morality. Ever. I can't find any stories where Jesus sees an immoral person and says anything like, "Wow! Okay. Well, that really is disgusting. That's just too much." ... God sees things we don't. He must, because He hasn't vaporized us yet. He must look at a seriously messed-up world and still see what can be done with it. ... Jesus is this way with the most morally embarrassing people. You can't find a single story in the Bible where He's so disgusted, so scandalized by someone's moral behavior, that He writes them off. It just doesn't happen. — Brant Hansen, *Unoffendable**

2. Jesus is always taking people past tradition, past objections, past their past, right to their search for hope (4:10 – 12).
3. Jesus is always realistic about pain and sin and shame; and all the time surprising people with grace (4:13 – 18).
4. Jesus is always releasing people from religious debates and returning them to their real need — a relationship with God (4:19 – 26).

- Everyone matters to God.
- No one is beyond His grace.
- Never underestimate the impact of your testimony on others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 4:1 – 26
- What stood out to you from last weekend's sermon?
- How is thirst a great symbol of our human experience?
- Can you share a life situation that caused you to cry out to God much the way David did as expressed in Psalm 42:1 – 2?
- List some ways in which Jesus was counter-cultural (or non-traditional).
- When you think of all the ways Jesus "reached across" cultural and religious divisions, is there one that is particularly meaningful to you in your own life and experience?
- In what ways is "water" a perfect symbol of what Christ is offering to the woman?
- What kind of worship is Christ speaking of in verse 23 and 24? How is it different from the worship of the Samaritans on the mountain or the Jews at Jerusalem?
- As you consider this episode in Christ's ministry, what do you find especially insightful on a personal level?