



THURSDAY 05.20.10

Matthew 11:25-30

The woman that Jesus finds at the well in John chapter 4 must have been very weary from carrying the burden of the failures that she had experienced in her life.

- The yoke that Jesus speaks of in verse 29 was the beam which was placed across two animals pulling the weight of a heavy cart. The purpose of the yoke was to balance the heavy load. Have you allowed Jesus to help you balance the weight of any burdens you carry in your life? Is there something in your life right now that you need to unload in order to rest?
- Just as Jesus bears the extra weight for us, he invites us to do the same for others. Is there someone in your life who might be looking for you to carry the weight of a burden in his or her life? What might you do to help?



FRIDAY 05.21.10

Matthew 7:7-12

In this closing section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus compares God's desire to give good gifts to God's children with the desire every good parent has to meet the needs of his or her children. In drawing the thoughts of his audience to the love they experience for their own children, he invites them to consider how much more God loves each of them.

- We often describe the Christian faith in terms of loving God, loving others and serving the world. How has your own experience of loving others helped you understand how God loves you?
- To illustrate God's love, Jesus talks about the tangible ways that a parent cares for a child's physical needs. God also gives good gifts, Jesus says, as an expression of God's love. What good gifts are you giving to God as an expression of your love and devotion to God?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *UNRated*

Sermon: *Woman with Five Husbands finally Finds Love*

Scripture: *John 4:1-26*

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

During this final week of our *UNRated* message series, we turn our attention to a nameless woman who encounters Jesus by a well in Samaria. It is an unlikely encounter for a variety of reasons. We might begin with the idea that it happens during the heat of the day. Women would often come in a large group in the cool evening breeze, but for reasons we will soon find out, this woman was not welcome there. Further, it was not customary for a Jewish rabbi to speak in public with a woman, and this woman is not even a Jew. She is a despised Samaritan.

In other words, anyone who might have observed this encounter would have been surprised and shocked by what they saw as Jesus offered this outcast woman "living water." This week we remember that surprising us is something that Jesus does best, and that just when we think we have hit rock bottom and God wants nothing more to do with our lives, Jesus enters our lives again and offers us the water that quenches our eternal thirst.

As you reflect on your readings for this week, may this prayer guide you.

Lord, I am often surprised at the depth of love and grace you have for me. Remind me today that you are always present in my life and that the living water you offer fills my every need. Help me to have the type of faith, Lord, that always trusts in what you provide. AMEN.



TUESDAY 05. 18.10

Galatians 3:26-29

The Samaritan woman at the well was not the ideal picture of the person others might have expected to connect with Jesus, but Jesus sees in her the need for grace, and out of compassion for her, he responds to her need. To each of us, Paul writes, Jesus offers the opportunity to be called "sons of God."

- In describing how we are all "one in Christ," why do you think Paul uses the language of "sons"? What did sons receive in Paul's culture that was not given to daughters?
- Paul writes that we receive our inheritance by being baptized into Christ and having "clothed ourselves with Christ." What do you think Paul means by that last phrase? What does it look like to "clothe yourself with Christ"? What aspect of Christ's character do you need to "clothe" yourself in today?



MONDAY 05.17.10

Psalm 42:1-5

Throughout the Bible we find instances where the writers of the Bible seek to connect our experiences of physical hunger and thirst with the spiritual needs we have to be filled with God's presence and love. Perhaps none of those are more famous than Psalm 42.

- Think back to the last time you found yourself desperately thirsty. Perhaps it was a hot day or a time you woke up in the middle of the night when your throat was very dry. Is there a time in your life when you would have described yourself as experiencing a spiritual thirst? What led you to that experience of being spiritually thirsty? How have you seen God quenching that thirst in your life?
- The Psalmist affirms that even the faithful sometimes experience a great thirst in their lives. What are some ways the Psalmist instructs us to quench that thirst?



WEDNESDAY 05.19.10

Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus made it a habit to connect with those who were deemed "unhealthy" by the religious establishment of his day. When asked to explain his actions, Jesus not only rebukes their lack of compassion but also expresses his understanding of the mission he had been given by God.

- The purpose of the time that Jesus spent with the tax collectors and sinners was not to affirm their destructive lifestyle but to invite them to live in a new way. As you think about your relationship with Jesus, how has he helped you to live in a new and healthy way?
- Jesus instructed the religious leaders to go and learn what he meant by "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What do you think Jesus meant by that statement? What do you think Jesus most strongly desires from you?
