Road to the Hill - Three Along the Road

Romans 5:8

3/30/25

Last week we began this series “The Road to the Hill”. We saw how all of us, like Adam and Eve, have failed God. We saw why Easter matters to us and why the need for it. Easter is the cornerstone of our faith. It is the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which signifies victory over sin and death. Easter is a celebration of God's incredible love and grace. It is a reminder that despite our rebellion, God offered us a path to restoration through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This morning we’ll journey down the second leg of our series "The Road to the Hill." Today we're going to fast forward from Genisis, to the days when Jesus walked the earth. We're going to follow Jesus through three scenes on His way to the hill, Calvary.

Jesus ran into a wide variety of people on the road He traveled. This morning, we're going to examine His interaction with three particular people along the road. Our intention today is to learn how Jesus responded to these people in their situations and what that can mean for us today.

**First scene - John 4**

A. Set up the story (Samaritan woman, conversation, living water).

* **He chooses to travel the difficult way to get to her specifically**.
  + *3. Then Jesus went from the country of Judea to the country of Galilee. 4 He had to go through the country of Samaria*
* Jews generally avoided Samaria due to historical and religious animosity between the two groups. They often chose a longer, more roundabout route to bypass Samaria.

***7****A woman of Samaria came to get water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”****8****His followers had gone to the town to buy food.****9****The woman of Samaria said to Him, “You are a Jew. I am of Samaria. Why do You ask me for a drink when the Jews have nothing to do with the people of Samaria?”* ***10****Jesus said to her, “You do not know what God has to give. You do not know Who said to you, ‘Give Me a drink.’ If you knew, you would have asked Him. He would have given you living water.”****11****The woman said to Him, “Sir, the well is deep. You have nothing to get water with. Where will You get the living water?****12****Are You greater than our early father Jacob? He gave us the well. He and his children and his cattle drank from it.”* ***13****Jesus said to her, “Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again.****14****Whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty. The water that I will give him will become in him a well of life that lasts forever.”* ***15****The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty. Then I will not have to come all this way for water.”*

* Read John 4:16-17
  + *16 Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” 17 The woman said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said, “You told the truth when you said, ‘I have no husband.’ 18 You have had five husbands. The one you have now is not your husband. You told the truth.”*
* Jesus tells the woman to go get her husband. This immediately takes the woman's mind to a life full of failure.
* **And Jesus reveals her failure**, divorced five times, living with a man now.

B. Now look at John 4:25-26

* *25 The woman said to Him, “I know the Jews are looking for One Who is coming. He is called the Christ. When He comes, He will tell us everything.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I am the Christ, the One talking with you!”*
* The woman mentions that the Messiah is coming, and He has all the answers.
* Jesus tells the woman, "I am the Messiah."
  + Very rarely did Jesus directly tell people He was the Messiah.
  + The religious people hounded Him, asking Him if He was the Messiah and He never answered.
  + But this divorced, immoral woman got to hear it straight from Jesus.
* **Jesus sat with her, talked with her, and revealed Himself to her, and despite her past,** did not condemn her, but freed her.

**Lesson #1 from the road to the hill:**

* **Jesus frees us from our past.**
* What have you got in your past?
* We've all got a past. Some worse than others.

**Second scene**

1. Turn in your Bibles to John 8:1-5

* *“Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”*
* **Her present circumstances were not very promising**
* The religious leaders brought this woman to Jesus in shame-filled, humiliating circumstances. She was held against her will, a prisoner under the custody of the religious police who caught her involved with a man not her husband, **in the very act** of adultery. To mention the obvious, there was also a man involved in this **very act** of **adultery** – yet the guilty man was *not* brought before Jesus for judgment. It also meant that there were pre-arranged spies sent to witness this affair, and they carefully noted the sordid details. Legally speaking, the standard of evidence was very high for this crime. There had to be two witnesses, and they had to agree perfectly. They had to see the sexual act take place; it wasn’t enough to see the pair leaving the same room together or even lying on the same bed together.
* It is true that adultery was a capital offense under Jewish law, (the law, commanded that such should be stoned)
* The shame she must have felt, all the eyes on her. She was humiliated and shamed publicly for her act.

1. Now look at John 8:10-11

* *“Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*
* **Her present goes from condemnation to acceptance.**
* Jesus didn't accept her sin, but He did accept her.
* Her day went from judgment to hope in an instant with Jesus.

**Lesson #2 from the Road to the Hill**

* **Jesus gives us hope in the present.**
  + What are you struggling with right now, today?
  + What makes you feel like everybody's looking and talking?
  + Jesus offers you hope right here, right now.

**Third Scene**

1. Turn in your Bibles to John 11:38-40

* “*Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.” Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”*
* At the time Jesus is speaking here, Lazarus had been dead three days
* Lazarus was gone and of course, **nobody in their right minds had any hope for Lazarus and his**

**future.**

1. Now look at John 11:43-44

* *“Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head-cloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!””*
* Jesus said step back and see the glory of God.
* He calls Lazarus by name and Lazarus walks out.
* **He had no future until Jesus called him out of the grave**.

Lesson #3 from the Road to the Hill

* **Jesus cares deeply about our future.**
  + Maybe you feel like you'd be better off dead.
  + Maybe nobody in their right minds think you'll ever amount to anything.
  + Maybe your own family says "You stinketh".
  + So what? Jesus cares. Jesus cares deeply about your future.

Closing:

These individuals, and so many more encountered Jesus on the Road to the Hill, and their lives were forever altered. They were the ones for whom He made His journey to the hill. Today, Jesus continues to seek out people like them. People who are…

* Needing real freedom from their past.
* Seeking hope in their present circumstances.
* Desiring someone to genuinely care about their future.

PAST

Romans 8:1 There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

PRESENT

Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 5:8 states, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

When Jesus chose to walk the road to the hill, He encompassed our past, present, and future for His glory and our renewal. Do you find yourself in need of Him today?