



October 19 – Unraveled Shame – Samaritan Woman at the Well

Life certainly does not always go as planned. When life breaks, we often do, too. Things happen, we make mistakes, we make decisions we wish we hadn't made, or things have happened to us through no fault of our own...they all can create shame in us that is so hard to put down. But Jesus brings hope of unraveling shame. Join us this weekend as a woman at a well, helps us learn about unraveled shame!

Scripture:

Psalm 95:1-7 NLT

Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. ³ For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. ⁴ He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. ⁵ The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too. ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, ⁷ for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.

John 4:1-30 NLT

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ² (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). ³ So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!"

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

Questions:

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in today's story of the Samaritan woman at the well?
- What are the results of the unraveling?
- How is God working in the midst of the unraveling?
- What might you learn from this unraveling?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Hebrews 12:1-2

Tuesday: Romans 10:11

Wednesday: Jude 1:21

Thursday: Romans 6:6-7

Friday: 1 Timothy 1:7