Riverside Community Church

Pray like Jesus
I am
Pastor Derrick Sanderson
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John 4:1-30 (NLT)- Jesus[a] 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.[b] 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,[c] 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!"[d]

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.

"I am the Messiah!"

"I am he, the one who is speaking to you. I am"

God offers true life because of His true love.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we took at look at the story of the woman at the well and that God offers true life because of His true love. How does the knowing that change the way you view your life and your relationship with God? What bearing does it have?

The invitation of salvation comes from God and because He has chosen to act out of His great love for us. Take a moment to read 1 John 4:7-21. What does this scripture here teach us about love, how are to love others and how that love works?

One of the most important pieces of scripture about love and how we are to love come in verse 19, "We love each other because he loved us first." It can feel like the love that we are supposed to offer the world around us is supposed to come from within us, and in a way it does, but not from us. Instead, we are invited to love others the way that we have been loved, both as a model of how to love and with God's love for us being the source of the love we pass on.

What would it look like to love others as God has loved us? How might it change the way we relate to the world and to the people around us?

Take some time to pray for each other that we would all grow in our ability to love as God loves us, and to remember to draw on that love in order that we may pass it on.