

WEEK 3 – WOMAN AT THE WELL

MONDAY – Purpose, intent and determination

John 4: 4,7,9 &10 *And it was necessary for Him to go through Samaria.*

7 *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me to drink.*

9 *Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, How do you, being a Jew, ask a drink of me, who am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews do not associate with Samaritans.*

10 *Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water._*

A drone's eye view of this incident in John 4 reveals the determined intent of Jesus to reach out to the marginalised, the outcast and those forgotten. "...Necessary for Him to go through Samaria..." was not because of travel arrangements or practical necessities; there were people there who needed to hear Him.

Overstepping boundaries that were set, like men and women who weren't married or related, who weren't allowed to be alone together, and worse, a Jewish man and a Samaritan woman, speaks volumes that she still approached the well. This animosity between them can be traced back to 2 Kings 17 when the Assyrian nation conquered Israel.

But Jesus had purpose.

Arriving at the 6th hour, the hottest time of day, would not have been the norm but an indication that she was not welcome among the other

women of her village because of her lifestyle and choices.

But what did the Samaritan woman do wrong? Why was she considered an outcast? Jesus reveals her current state of living outside of wedlock following five divorces when He requests that she fetch her husband.

Reflection: With Jesus' love, purpose, determination and intent, He transforms her life.

- She is called to purpose in His Kingdom as she becomes the first female evangelist.
- He fulfils her inner yearnings; she's waiting for the Messiah in John 4: 25 and deeply longs for a relationship that won't let her down.
- She is given a fresh start in her life; Jesus invited her to reject her past and the script others had written for her.

(Sources: Enduring Word, Adam Hamilton)



Prayer: Dear Jesus, Your almighty Love, reflected in Your determination, intent, and purpose for this unnamed rejected and hurting lady, brings us to our knees in gratefulness that we are all sought by You in similar manner. May we recognise when You offer us Your Living Water, and may we be ready to share this good news.. In Your precious name we pray. AMEN

TUESDAY – The Divine Mercy is relentless. God's quest for us



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Pious Jews went around Samaria, which was considered unclean, the land of the forgotten. However, Jesus is after the marginalised and will be going over the social boundaries that were set, like a man talking to a woman. Pastor Roger Frederickson pointed out that Jesus "... did not need to save the three days He could gain by passing through this ill-regarded province...", further that "...The Father had sent Him into the whole world, not just part of it".

The well in Samaria was firmly set in His sights.

Jesus' intentional and determined reaching out to this rejected and unnamed woman, who represents you and me, is in stark contrast to human thinking, reflected in for example the Greek myth of Prometheus who stole fire from the gods to give to humanity, a defiant act to enable human civilization and creativity, but brought punishment

from the gods who are angry and punish him eternally creating a Promethean problem, "God and humanity are rivals".

Here we see this is not true at all, God has no need of the world nor trying to protect something from the world, "...everything I have is yours..." says the father of the prodigal son to the brother, he does not have to grab it nor be the slave to get it. The relentlessness of God overcomes the Promethean problem.

Reflection: In your own life, does God's love call you to go to places that human division tells you to avoid?

- How can you break down barriers between yourself and other people who follow a different religion or lifestyle?
- Are you willing to ask for help to connect in tense or awkward situations?

(Sources: Enduring Word, Adam Hamilton, Bishop Robert Barron)



Prayer: Dear Jesus, You were willing to ask for, and to accept help even from unlikely people. Give me an openness to understand and share how Your living water can quench the deepest thirsts of hearts._ AMEN

WEDNESDAY – The Divine Mercy is divinising. God wants to share His life with us



John 4: 4, 7 *And it was necessary for Him to go through Samaria.*

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me to drink.

Isaiah 54: 5 & 6 *For your Maker is your husband; Jehovah of Hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall He be called. For Jehovah has called you as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when you were rejected, says your God.*

Isaiah 62: 4 *You will no more be called Forsaken; nor will your land any more be called Desolate; but you will be called My Delight is in her, and your land, Married; for Jehovah delights in you, and your land is married*

Jeremiah 2: 3 *For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, to hew out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

Isaiah points out that in the dynamics of the divine life, God wants to share His life intimately with us, our creator, our builder wants to marry us, the One that built us into existence does not just want to know us, or dominate us, or give us the law or have us obey Him; He wants the greatest level of intimacy that is achieved in marriage.

An encounter at a well with a woman and a man will conjure up images of wives being sought, like Isaac's wife Rebecca, Jacob, the deceiver, deceived by Laban into two wives for an extra 7 years, and Moses' wife Zipporah. St. Augustine points out that this pattern applied to the woman at the well represents the Church, the bride of Christ meeting her groom.

The "living water" is associated with Jehovah in the book of Jeremiah 2: 3. Jesus is giving it away, and following the principle that giving is greater than receiving, that your being increases in the measure you give away. Where the material life says to hang on to increase, the divine life wants to be filled with the love of God, as God gives us, we give that gift away, receive more and so on, which is the rhythm of the divine life.

Reflection: James reminds us that the closer we draw to God, the closer He comes to us, James 4: 8.

- Does the concept of an intimate relationship with the Lord frighten or inspire you?
- How would you go about entering a higher level of

knowing God and allowing
yourself to be known by Him?

(Sources: Enduring Word, Adam
Hamilton, Bishop Robert Barron)



Prayer: Dear Jesus, You died on the cross to pay the highest price for all of mankind's salvation. With eternally grateful hearts, we approach Your throne and pray for wisdom and insight for a closer walk with Thee. In Your precious name we pray. AMEN

THURSDAY – The Divine Mercy is demanding



John 4: 7, 13 & 14, 16 *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me to drink.*

13 *Jesus answered and said to her, whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

16 *Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband and come here.*

St Augustine pointed out that the well in the situation that the woman comes to represents the concupiscent desire, the errant or spiritual dysfunctional desire, to fill myself with worldly or materialistic things, wealth, honour, privilege or power. We all get into this desperate rhythm to drink of something that gets a bit of satisfaction, but then leaves us thirsty again.

Jesus pointed this out to her, she returns daily to the well and is not satisfied; However, He can give her water bubbling up in her to eternal life that will have a divinising quality.

By asking her to fetch her husband, He is making a demand of her to let go of what is blocking the flow of the divine life. Jesus calls us to metanoia, to conversion. Identify what the well is, and there may be many “wells”, and get rid of them, thereby responding to the Divine mercy He offers.

Reflection: Are you able to identify the well/s in your life that bring no lasting satisfaction?

- Having identified them, are you able to replace them with lasting sources of “living water”?

(Sources: Adam Hamilton, Bishop Robert Barron)



Prayer: Jesus, You offer us all the “living water” that will satisfy the innermost divine longings that we struggle to find and return daily to our wells of shallow satisfaction. Help us to honestly identify what in our lives is blocking the flow of the divine life and drink from the spring of eternal life that You, in Your mercy, offer us. In Your precious name we pray._ AMEN

FRIDAY – The Divine Mercy sends us on mission



John 4: 4, 7, 28-30 *And it was necessary for Him to go through Samaria.*

7 *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me to drink.*

28 *The woman then left her waterpot and went into the city and said to the men, Come see a man who told me all things that I ever did. Is this One not the Christ? And they went out of the city and came to Him.*

The Old and New Testament lies replete with encounters with God that do not end without the person being sent on a mission. Moses encountered God in the burning bush, a pivotal moment where he is commissioned to lead the Israelites to freedom. Saul encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus, and Paul is transformed to become one of Christianity's most influential missionaries.

The woman, after speaking to Jesus, puts down the water jar and goes into the city to announce Christ; she becomes the first evangelist.

The water jar she puts down symbolises conversion. She puts down the old addictive pattern; she is not going back to identified

errant desires; Jesus has, as it were, “cracked the code” of the problem and she is transformed by this freedom and wants to tell other people.

Reflection: Identifying the “well” in your lives is key to finding the issue holding you back from the Living Water Jesus can give to send you on mission.

- Having identified and dealt with the wells in your life, will you tell others, evangelise?
- Do you allow your limitations to block you from sharing what Christ means to you?
- Consider the woman at the well and ask God in what ways you can be a channel of Christ's love today.

(Sources: Adam Hamilton, Bishop Robert Barron)



Prayer: *Lord Jesus, You said Your kingdom belongs to people who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Grow that appetite in me and feed and sustain me as I join in your mission in this world. In Your precious Name we pray. AMEN*