

Good morning, we are jumping back into a series today called ... Jesus Among Us.

Jesus Among Us ... is an invitation to recognize that Jesus is present in us and with us and desires to reveal Himself to us and through us every day. The Church was never meant to simply gather together ... and separate itself from the world. The church is a people transformed by the presence of Jesus and sent into the world carrying His love, hope, and truth. Being a follower of Jesus is more than attending church or participating in Christian culture.

It is a life lived with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and revealing Jesus to the people around us. These three points (a life lived with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and revealing Jesus) ... are (in my opinion) what it means to be a follower of Jesus!

In this series, we will look at Jesus 's earthly ministry to see how He showed up to spaces, interacted with people, and brought transformation to situations. We will see that He didn't simply stay in safe, comfortable, religious spaces. He went where people were. He entered their world. He built relationships.

So, as we look at the text, we are looking for Jesus, His nature, how He responds to those around Him. We are also looking for our invitations through the story. How can we respond to those around us and to the Lord?

Before we jump into the text today, I wanted to give some literary context for where we are reading in scripture...the Gospels.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (known as The Gospels) tell the story of Jesus' earthly ministry—what He did, said, taught, experienced, and accomplished.

These stories answer questions such as:

- Who is Jesus?
- What is the Kingdom of God like?
- How did Jesus reveal the Father?
- How did Jesus treat sinners, outsiders, religious leaders, women, the sick, and the oppressed?
- What did Jesus teach His disciples?
- What happened through His death and resurrection?

So when we read something like: “**Jesus had compassion on them...**” (**Matthew 9:36**), the Gospel writer is showing us Jesus in action. The theology is there, but much of it is communicated through story, dialogue, events, signs, and Jesus’ teaching. That means as we read the text, our observations of Jesus and others in the text, can be an invitation to us, as it speaks of Jesus’ nature and how He interacted with people.

Today (and next week), we will look at **John 4:3-24** ... to see what we can learn from Jesus in how He lived His daily life during His earthly ministry.

**He (Jesus) left Judea and departed again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But He needed to go through Samaria.**

**“But He needed to go through Samaria” (v. 4)**

Jesus is leaving Judea, headed to Galilee ... John uses this word **dei** (translated to **needed**) to emphasize Jesus’ traveling through Samaria. This word **needed** is defined as “**necessary, must, ought**” and because of how it is used throughout Scripture, it is often seen as a “**divine necessity**”.

- **John 3:14 — so, the Son of Man must be lifted up.**
- **John 9:4 — we (Jesus) must do the works of the One who sent Me (Jesus).**

This word **needed** or **must** is connected to “**divine necessity**,” meaning **necessity being led by God**.

First of all, was Samaria geographically necessary? Samaria does lay along a direct route between Judea and Galilee, but travelers could take an alternative route through the Jordan Valley. Because of historical hostility between Jews and Samaritans, many Jewish travelers avoided Samaria, although not all did.

John's choice of the word **dei (needed)** may therefore suggest Jesus traveling through Samaria as more ... than geographical convenience. Based on that word John used ... it does suggest that Jesus had a divine appointment awaiting for Him.

What I see in the text is that ...

1. What others might have considered a place to avoid, Jesus saw as a place to enter (led by the Father).

<sup>5</sup> So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there.

Why does John put this detail in the text? Here is a little history ... both Jews and Samaritans traced their heritage back to the descendants of Israel ... by worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ... although Jewish and Samaritan religious traditions had developed very differently over the years. Many scholars agree that pointing out that Jacob's well was there ... emphasized a shared spiritual heritage between Jews and Samaritans, between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. What was being established ... was common ground, through a shared history.

And even though the Jews and Samaritans disagreed about worship, religious practices, and identity, Jesus did not allow those differences to be a barrier between Himself and the Samaritan woman. Jesus chose to sit at a well that represented something they shared.

What I see in the text is that ...

2. Jesus met the Samaritan woman in a place of shared history before inviting her into a new future.

Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." <sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Do you remember from the story of Jesus turning water into wine (several weeks back)? We recognized that Jesus lived relationally so that He could live missionally. This is another example of this. Culturally during this time, for Jesus to speak to a Samaritan and to speak to a woman would be unheard of.

In fact, for many Jews, the thought would have never crossed their mind to pause and engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. But Jesus did pause...and it was in the pause ... that He chose to engage this woman relationally that opened the door for Him to partner with His Father's mission in this woman's life.

I think the idea of "pause" may be just as difficult in our culture ... as the idea of true "rest" (not checking out). How many would agree with that?

How many of you have ever seen someone you know out in public, but you didn't have time to talk so you pretended like you didn't see them?

We live such fast-paced busy lives, with more on our to do list than we can accomplish in a day...and a pause can often feel like it would just take us backwards.

When I think of the practice of pausing.... I think of my Grandmas; I spent a lot of time with them growing up. I would often go to the post office with them each day. A task that should have taken 5 minutes, but it often took an hour. Why, because they would pause ... with each person they knew (this was just about everyone since they both lived in the little town of Brownsville). They would visit and then move on to the next person. I often observed my Grandmas participating in the practice of pausing with people. Let me just say .... Jesus, He perfected the practice of pausing for people ... because His pause always led to an encounter for that person He paused for.

What I see in the text is that ...

3. Jesus lived to pause, so that He could live relationally fulfilling His Father's mission.

**<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." <sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.**

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

The dialogue begins between Jesus and the woman ... but look at how the dialogue goes. The woman is focused on who she believes she is, who the world says she is a Samaritan woman, and all the baggage that goes with her title.

That is not Jesus' focus, (how the world sees this woman), His focus is on who He is, as He says He is the gift of God, the one who would have given you living water. Jesus is basically saying to the Samaritan woman, the focus is not on you,

who you think you are ... who others say you are ... the focus is on Me, the one sent to give you **living water**.

How often do we **observe and judge** a person by their situation ... what they have **done**, their past, and at the same moment ... have completely forgotten that it is about Jesus and **what He has done**? It **doesn't mean** we **ignore situations** in people's lives, but I believe **we can learn from Jesus** in **how He interacted with this woman's situation** in that **the focus was not on her**, the **focus was on Himself**, as the Messiah.

What I **see in the text** is that ...

4. Jesus lived with His focus on who He is, not on how humanity sees themselves.

**<sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"**

**<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."**

How many of us have ever **been in a difficult life situation**, and as **we began to look to Jesus for the answer**, our brains **kicked into overdrive** ... thinking **about all the reasons why Jesus can't actually help us**. This is **what the Samaritan woman begins to do**. **How will you do this Lord and how will you do that?**

It's like **giving God a laundry list of questions**, only to **have Him answer in a way that ... initially you thought He might have missed your question?** (I don't think you heard me Jesus).

Why does **He seem to answer our questions** with an **answer that doesn't answer what we are asking?** It is because **He knows what we need, not necessarily what we think we need to know**.

I love Jesus' response, again His focus is not on answering all of her specific questions, but what He does share is the true answer, in fact the answer to every difficult situation in her life.

**“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

The phrase Jesus uses **the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

Think about the eternal repercussions of this statement. Jesus is making a statement that shifts her focus from her needs being physical needs to a realization that as true as those needs may be (water, food, etc.) we were created for a greater need to be fulfilled.

Talk about an eye-opening experience. This is when you first realized your need for Jesus Christ. Before then, you didn't know what you didn't know. This is how we are introduced into a relationship with Jesus Christ, when we realize this gaping hole in us, that we have tried to fill with so many other things. This gaping hole can only be filled with relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is where we can get hung up in our definition of what it means to be a Christian. If we give people a laundry list of what they need to do to be a Christian prior to them fully understanding their greatest need and Jesus being the fulfillment of that need, then we quickly fall into works (religion) that is separate from a connection with Jesus.

What I see in the text is that ...

5. Jesus meets us in our present needs, as He offers us what we need the most – Himself.

<sup>15</sup> **The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”**

The woman recognized her need for water that (Jesus) gives (that causes one to) never thirst. She saw her greatest need for the water that (that Jesus gave) becoming in (her) a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

Once she saw the need...then Jesus revealed where the enemy was robbing from her in her life.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

We see that Jesus did not share the truth of her situation with her until she recognized her need for Jesus Christ. Can I say sometimes we do that backwards? We like to tell people all the things they are doing wrong, before they have the revelation of their need for Jesus Christ.

Here is one of our greatest challenges as the church...getting the cart before the horse.

Our heart as a church, is to create a culture where people feel welcomed to come and experience their need for Jesus Christ. The struggle is, as humans, we can be afraid of the sin in people's lives (because it looks different than our own). And we can worry that once people are accepted in the church, they won't see their sin or need for Jesus and keep living their life the way they currently are living. Then what do we do? We certainly don't want to "look" like we are condoning their sin.

These are the fears that keep us from engaging people who we perceive as "sinners" ... just as this woman would have been perceived by the Jewish community in her time as a "sinner".

What I see in the text is that ...

6. Jesus lived presenting the need of who He is first (Savior), followed by the ways to follow who He is second (Lord).

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

A quick side note. Notice that God was already working in this woman's life as she could recall what she knew of God from her past. Can I just say, God is working in people's lives, and many times once people recognize their need for Jesus, receive Him as their Lord and Savior, then that person can look back in their

lives and see God's fingerprints touching their lives all along the way. That is an amazing, loving God. We as the church are invited to catch up with what God is already doing in the lives of people. But we will only see what He is already doing, if we take the time to get to know them as people, and not as their sin.

**<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

**<sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."**

**<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."**

Do you see the process Jesus and this woman went through get to the point where Jesus announces that He is the Messiah...the one she had been looking for....

I believe this is our invitation for this week...

1. What others might have considered a place to avoid, Jesus saw as a place to enter (led by the Father).
2. Jesus met the Samaritan woman in a place of shared history before inviting her into a new future.
3. Jesus lived to pause, so that He could live relationally fulfilling His Father's mission.
4. Jesus lived with His focus on who He is, not on how humanity sees themselves.
5. Jesus meets us in our present needs, as He offers us what we need the most – Himself.
6. Jesus lived presenting the need of who He is first (Savior), followed by the ways to follow who He is second (Lord).

# Jesus Among Us 5.0

**John 4:3-26**

# Invitation...

- A life lived WITH Jesus (relationship)
- Becoming LIKE Jesus (transformation)
- REVEALING Jesus (extension of God)

## John 4:3-4

- **He (Jesus) left Judea and departed again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But He needed to go through Samaria.**
- **Dei (needed) – necessary, must, ought**
- **John 3:14 — so, the Son of Man must be lifted up.**
- **John 9:4 — we (Jesus) must do the works of the One who sent Me (Jesus).**

What others might have  
considered a place to avoid,  
Jesus saw as a place to enter...  
(Led by the Father)

## John 4:5-6

- **<sup>5</sup> So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there.**
- Jews and Samaritans traced their heritage back to the descendants of Israel by worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Jewish and Samaritan religious traditions had developed differently over the years.

Jesus met the Samaritan woman in  
a place of shared history before  
inviting her into her  
new future...

## John 4:6-8

- **Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.**
- the idea of “pause” may be just as difficult in our culture as “rest”...

Jesus lived to pause,  
so that He could live relationally  
fulfilling His Father's mission...

## John 4:7-9

- **<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.**

# John 4:10

- <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”
- Her focus – her baggage with being a Samaritan Woman
- His focus – Who He is ... **living water**

Jesus lived with His focus  
on who He is,  
not on how humanity sees  
themselves...

## John 4:11-12

- **<sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”**

## John 4:13-14

- **<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

- Jesus knows what we need, not necessarily what we think we need to know
- Jesus' focus is not on answering all of her specific questions, but what He does share is the true answer, in fact the answer to every difficult situation in her life

## John 4:14

- **“But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” - Jesus**
- Shifts her focus from her needs being physical needs to eternal need
- A greater need to be filled - Jesus Christ

Jesus meets us in  
our present needs,  
as He offers us  
what we need the most—Himself...

## John 4:15

- **<sup>15</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”**
- **She saw her greatest need for the water that (that Jesus gave) becoming in (her) a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**
- **Once she saw her need ... Jesus revealed the enemy’s counterfeit in her life...**

## John 4:16-18

- **<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”**
- Jesus did not share the truth of her situation with her until she recognized her need for Jesus Christ

Jesus lived presenting the need  
of who He is first (Savior),  
followed by the ways to follow  
who He is second (Lord).

## John 4:19-20

- **<sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”**
- God is working in people’s lives...

## John 4:21-23

- **<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

## John 4:24-26

- **<sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”**

# Our invitation as we live as Jesus lived...

- What others might have considered a place to avoid, Jesus saw as a place to enter (led by the Father).
- Jesus met the Samaritan woman in a place of shared history before inviting her into a new future.
- Jesus lived to pause, so that He could live relationally fulfilling His Father's mission.

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- Jesus lived presenting the need of who He is first (Savior), followed by the ways to follow who He is second (Lord).