The Story: Chapter 23 Jesus' Ministry Begins

Dr. Scott Dermer September 17, 2023

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:

Opening Discussion

 What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Is the Christian life a struggle?

Dr. Dermer shared with us his experience running in the St. Jude Marathon. He neglected to partake in the nourishment that was provided, and that decision caught up with him at about mile 14. He finished the race, but every step was a struggle.

In reflection, this reminded him that at times our Christian journey can feel the same way.

Have you experienced times in your walk that have felt heavy? Where staying on the path was hard, each step a struggle? As you look back, was there spiritual nourishment that you were neglecting or not taking in?

Read John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this, he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

When you hear the phrase "Living Water" what first comes to mind?

Jesus spoke of this water to the Samaritan woman at the well. He said,

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

How do you see yourself reflected in this woman? What about her story, her need, most resonates with you?

Jesus longed to give her the gift of Living Water — The Gift of the Holy Spirit. He longs to do the same for us.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Dr. Dermer reminded us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Son, dwelling within us. God's own self, His presence, abiding in our hearts.

In John 1:33 we read "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."

This man was Jesus. And in John 16:7 Jesus tells His disciples "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

Reflect on the two functions of the Holy Spirit that Dr. Dermer shared with us.

- 1. To cleanse our hearts from sin. The Holy Spirit washes us clean of envy, gossip, and dishonesty.
- 2. To refresh us. The Holy Spirit satisfies our deepest longing, brings contentment, and gives rest to our weary souls.

What areas of your life are most in need of cleansing? What areas need the Spirits refreshing? Share these with your group.

However, it's not uncommon that we look to something other than the Holy Spirit to bring the refreshment that we need.

What have you, either in the past or present, thirsted for to bring contentment, refreshment, or satisfaction? Success? Money? Approval? Entertainment?

Did these things bring a true quenching of your thirst? How did you see the contentment fade and the thirst return?

Just like what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, only the Living Water — The Holy Spirit — can bring a true refreshing that is lasting. Through this, your life can truly flourish.

Dr. Dermer walked us through a time of response and reflection. Take a moment to revisit these questions now and share them with your group.

Do I know the gift of Living Water? Am I experiencing the cleansing, refreshing work of the Holy Spirit in my life? What areas do I need more of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in my life?

Consider inviting your group into a time of prayer and accountability over these things.

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

• Email: Todd <u>tkeller@collegechurch.com</u> Julie <u>groups@collegechurch.com</u>

***Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

low can we pray for each other this week		