

Series: Still Worthy

Title: Still Worthy

John 4:3-7 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria.

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

There are some people who walk into a room and immediately wonder if they belong.

They wonder if they're good enough. They wonder if God still wants them.

They wonder if their past has disqualified them from their future.

Some people smile on the outside while carrying a private question in their soul:

"Am I still worthy?"

Worthy after what I've done?

Worthy after what happened to me?

Worthy after the relationships I've ruined?

Worthy after the mistakes I've made?

Worthy after the people who walked away?

Worthy after I've disappointed God again and again?

And then we come to John chapter 4.

There is a woman walking toward a well.

She is not merely carrying a water jar.

She is carrying a history.

She is carrying rejection.

She is carrying disappointment.

She is carrying relational wounds.

She is carrying the whispers of a community that knows her story.

And perhaps that is why she comes to the well at a strange hour.

She comes when the other women aren't there.

She comes when nobody has to look her in the eyes.

She comes for water.

But God has arranged a divine appointment.

Because sometimes you think you're walking toward a well to get water, but God is walking toward you to give you living water.

And there, at the well sits Jesus.

A Jewish rabbi.

A Samaritan woman.

A cultural divide.

A religious divide.

A gender divide.

A moral divide.

And yet Jesus begins the conversation.

"Will you give me a drink."

Notice something powerful:

Jesus doesn't wait for her to become worthy before He speaks to her.

He speaks to her while she is still carrying her shame.

He doesn't demand that she clean herself up before approaching Him.

He approaches her in the middle of her mess. (That is the Gospel.)

Jesus doesn't love the version of you that you pretend to be.

He loves you enough to meet the version of you that you're afraid to show anybody.

And today, I came to tell somebody:

YOU ARE STILL WORTHY.

Not because you have never failed.

Not because you've always made the right decision.

Not because everybody approves of you.

But because Jesus has placed His attention upon you.

Your worth is not established by your history.

Your worth is established by the One who came looking for you.

1. You are still worthy when your past has become your identity

John 4:15-17 "The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16He told her. "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 “I have not husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.

The woman says, “I have no husband.”

Jesus responds by revealing that she has had five husbands, and the man she currently has is not her husband.

Jesus knows her history.

And yet He stays in the conversation. Think about that.

Jesus knows everything she has tried to hide. And He doesn’t walk away.

The enemy wants you to believe:

“You did that, therefore you ARE that.”

But Jesus says:

“What you did is part of your story, but it is not the definition of your identity.”

The Bible is filled with people whose past did not have the final word. (David, Paul, Peter)

Micah 7:8 declares: “Though I have fallen, I will rise.”

Notice the language.

I have fallen.

Not:

“I am a failure.”

There is a difference between falling and becoming your fall.

You may have fallen..... But you are not finished.

You may have sinned.....But you are not disqualified from grace.

You may have made a mess.....But God is still able to make a testimony.

And when Jesus speaks to the woman at the well, He doesn’t pretend her past doesn’t exist.

He brings it into the light.

Because Jesus does not expose you to destroy you.

He exposes what is killing you so He can heal you.

He takes what you thought was evidence against you and turns it into evidence of His mercy.

You are still worthy.

Your past may explain some of your pain.....But it does not have permission to determine your future.

2. You are still worthy when people have rejected you

The woman was a Samaritan.

To understand the weight of this encounter, we have to understand the hostility between Jews and Samaritans.

These communities carried centuries of religious and ethnic tension.

Yet Jesus deliberately travels through Samaria.

John 4:4 says something remarkable: “Now He had to go through Samaria.”

Jesus didn’t merely happen to be there. He had an appointment.

There was a woman in Samaria who needed to know that heaven had not forgotten her.

And Jesus crossed a boundary that respectable religion might have told Him not to cross.

There is a Hebrew concept here:

Chesed: is often translated as lovingkindness, steadfast love, covenant loyalty, mercy.

It is love that doesn’t disappear when circumstances become inconvenient.

It is love that remains.

It is love that says:

“I will not abandon you.”

Human love can be conditional.

People can say:

“I loved you until you disappointed me.”

“I accepted you until you embarrassed me.”

“I was with you until your past became inconvenient.”

But chesed says: “I will remain.”

That is the kind of love God reveals throughout Scripture.

Lamentations 3:22–23 says: “Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.”

Not every year.

Not every decade.

Every morning.

You woke up this morning with another supply of mercy.

Your rejection does not mean God rejected you.

Your divorce does not mean God divorced you.

Your abandonment does not mean God abandoned you.

Your failure does not mean God failed you.

Isaiah 43:1 says: “But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.”

God says:

"I called you by your name."

Not by your mistake.

Not by your addiction.

Not by your divorce.

Not by your depression.

Not by your failure.

Not by what they called you.

By your name.

Jesus looked at a woman society could easily overlook and treated her as someone worthy of divine conversation.

And here's what is beautiful:

She wasn't looking for Jesus..... Jesus was looking for her.

She thought she was coming to the well.....But Jesus had already gone to the well.

She thought she was searching for water.....But the Water of Life was waiting for her.

And maybe that's your story.

You think you're searching for God.....But the deeper truth is: God has been pursuing you.

3. You are still worthy when you feel spiritually disqualified

Perhaps the deepest wound of the woman at the well wasn't merely relational.

It was spiritual.

She tells Jesus: in John 4:19-20

"Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

In other words: "Where does someone like me go to meet God?"

Have you ever asked that question?

"After everything I've done, will God still meet me?"

"After all my mistakes, can I still worship?"

"After what happened to me, can I still pray?"

"Can God still use me?"

Jesus gives her one of the most profound revelations in the entire Gospel.

He tells her that the Father is seeking those who worship Him in spirit and truth.

Then she speaks about the coming Messiah, and how He will explain everything. (Vs 25)

And Jesus says:

"I am he."

Think about who Jesus chooses to reveal this truth to.

Not a Roman governor.

Not a religious scholar.

Not a Pharisee.

Not a priest.

A Samaritan woman with a complicated past. A woman with issues, a woman carrying shame.

Jesus gives revelation to someone who probably felt disqualified from religious significance.

Why?

Because the Kingdom of God has never been built upon human qualifications.

It has always been built upon grace.

Grace means that God gives favor that cannot be earned.

Grace says: "You don't have to manufacture your worth. I give it to you."

Ephesians 2:8–9 tells us that salvation is by grace through faith, not something we can boast about.

Romans 8:1 declares:

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Do you hear that?

No condemnation.

Not less condemnation.

Not reduced condemnation.

No condemnation.

The voice of shame says:

"You're not worthy."

Jesus says: "Come."

Shame says: "Hide."

Jesus says: "Come into the light."

Shame says: "Your past disqualifies you."

Jesus says: "I know your past, and I am still speaking to you."

Shame says: "You have nothing to offer."

Jesus says: "I can use your story."

And look at what happens next.

The woman leaves her water jar. (Vs 28). She runs back into the city.

And she tells the very people she had perhaps been avoiding:

“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.”

The woman who came to the well trying to avoid people becomes the woman who brings people to Jesus.

The woman who was hiding becomes a messenger.

The woman who felt disqualified becomes an evangelist.

The woman who thought her story was her shame discovers that her story can become her testimony.

That’s grace.

STILL WORTHY

There is something I want you to understand.

Jesus never told this woman:

“Your life doesn’t matter.”

He didn’t tell her:

“Your choices don’t matter.”

He didn’t tell her:

“Sin doesn’t matter.”

Instead, He brought truth and grace together.

He knew her sin.

He told her the truth.

And He still offered her living water.

That’s the mystery of the Gospel:

Truth without grace crushes us.

Grace without truth never transforms us.

But Jesus brings truth and grace together.

John 1:14 says that Jesus came full of grace and truth.

He knows everything about you.

And He still calls you.

He knows your history.

And He still loves you.

He knows your weakness.

And He still has purpose for you.
He knows where you've been.
And He still knows where He's taking you.
Your worth is not something you achieve.
Your worth is something you discover when you encounter Jesus.

Your testimony doesn't begin when you become perfect.
It begins when you encounter Jesus.

The well becomes an altar.
Imagine that woman standing beside that well.
Her water jar is beside her.
Her past is behind her.
Jesus is standing before her.
And for the first time, perhaps in years, she realizes:
"Someone knows everything about me—and hasn't walked away."
The deepest question isn't:
"Am I worthy?"
The deeper question is:
"What does Jesus say about me?"
And when the voice of shame says: "You are worthless."
Jesus says: "I came for you."
When shame says: "You are forgotten."
Jesus says: "I know your name."
When shame says: "You are disqualified."
Jesus says: "Come and follow Me."
When shame says: "Your past is too ugly."
Jesus says: "I make all things new."
When shame says: "You have nothing left."
Jesus says: "I have living water."
And when shame says: "You are no longer worthy,"
Jesus says: "You were never saved because you were worthy. You were saved because I am merciful."

John 4 says the woman left her water jar and went into the city.

I love that detail.

Because the thing she came carrying was no longer the most important thing.

She came carrying a jar.....She left carrying a testimony.

She came carrying shame.She left carrying good news.

She came alone.....She left with a message for a city.

She came thinking:..... "I need water."

She discovered:..... "I need Jesus."

And perhaps today, there is a water jar you need to leave behind.

The jar of shame.

The jar of regret.

The jar of rejection.

The jar of comparison.

The jar of "I'm not good enough."

The jar of "God can't use someone like me."

The jar of "I've gone too far."

Put it down.

Because Jesus is standing at the well.

And He is not asking you to prove your worth.

He is revealing it.

Your worth is not found in your perfection.....Your worth is found in His presence.

Your worth is not found in your past.....Your worth is found in His purpose.

Your worth is not found in people's acceptance.....Your worth is found in God's steadfast love.

And your worth is not determined by the worst thing you've ever done.

It is determined by the immeasurable love of the One who came looking for you.

You are still worthy.

You are still worthy of love.

Still worthy of grace.

Still worthy of restoration.

Still worthy of purpose.

Still worthy of being used by God.

Still worthy of lifting your hands.

Still worthy of worship.

Still worthy of hope.

Still worthy of getting back up.

Still worthy of another chapter.

Because the God who met a Samaritan woman at a well is still meeting wounded people at wells today.

And perhaps you came here feeling unworthy.

But you're going to leave knowing:

Jesus saw me.

Jesus knew me.

Jesus loved me.

Jesus forgave me.

Jesus called me.

And Jesus says I am still worthy.