

Pastor
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The JESUS way

SEPT. 8TH, 2024

THE WAY OF THE WIDER CIRCLE - JOHN 4:4-42

THEME: God calls His Children to engage the world with courage and care.

COURAGE PT 1: LETTING GOD WIDEN THE CIRCLE THROUGH US

“¹ So then, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went away again to Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He *came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”

~ JOHN 4:1-6 (NASB)

CARE: ENGAGING OTHERS WITH CHRIST'S LOVE

Four Descriptions of What Jesus Does, Four Examples of What We Need.

1. **GRACE** *Jesus engages her in a way that acknowledges and respects her (particularizes) – we need grace for those who are different around us.*

DURING THE CHAT, THERE IS AN INITIAL ENCOUNTER

“⁷ A woman of Samaria *came to draw water. Jesus *said to her, 'Give Me a drink.' ⁸ For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food. ⁹ So the Samaritan woman *said to Him, 'How is it that You, though You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”

~ JOHN 4:7-9 (NASB)

DURING THE CHAT, JESUS TELLS HER WHAT GOD IS OFFERING: LIVING WATER

“¹⁰ Jesus replied to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.' ¹¹ She *said to Him, 'Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?' ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?' ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.'”

¹⁵ The woman *said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water.'”

~ JOHN 4:10-15 (NASB)

2. **CURIOSITY** *Jesus shows His awareness of her life circumstances, Jesus already knew her circumstances. Unlike Him, we need to engage people with loving curiosity.*

DURING THE CHAT, THERE IS AN INITIAL ENCOUNTER

“¹⁶ He *said to her, 'Go, call your husband and come here.' ¹⁷ The woman answered and said to Him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus *said to her, 'You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true.' ¹⁹ The woman *said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.'”

~ JOHN 4:16-19 (NASB)

DURING THE CHAT, THERE IS AN INITIAL ENCOUNTER

“²⁰ 'Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.' ²¹ Jesus *said to her, 'Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'”

~ JOHN 4:20-24 (NASB)

3-

HUMILITY

Jesus humbly presents Himself as the long-awaited Messiah. When we exemplify humility as we talk to others, we earn the opportunity to share our own stories.

AND BECAUSE OF THE CHAT, HIS MESSIAHSHIP IS REVEALED TO HER

“²⁵ the woman ^{*}said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.’²⁶ Jesus ^{*}said to her, ‘I am He, the One speaking to you.’”

~ JOHN 4:25-26 (NASB)

4-

PATIENCE

Jesus doesn't tell her what to go do; He trusts the Lord of the process. Our job is to be obedient. God will take care of the rest.

BECAUSE OF THIS CHAT, SHE BECOMES AN EVANGELIST

“²⁷ And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, ‘What are You seeking?’ or, ‘Why are You speaking with her?’²⁸ So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and ^{*}said to the people,²⁹ ‘Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?’³⁰ They left the city and were coming to Him.”

~ JOHN 4:27-30 (NASB)

COURAGE PT 2: LETTING GOD WIDEN THE CIRCLE THROUGH US

“³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’³² But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’³³ So the disciples were saying to one another, ‘No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?’³⁴ Jesus ^{*}said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.’³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are still four months, and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest.³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together.³⁷ For in this case the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have come into their labor.”

~ JOHN 4:31-38 (NASB)

CONFIDENCE: LEAVING THE RESULTS TO GOD

“³⁹ Now from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all the things that I have done.’⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.⁴¹ Many more believed because of His word;⁴² and they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world.’”

~ JOHN 4:39-42 (NASB)

WHAT?

How can you be more open to those around you, ready to be available to be used by God?
How can you get ready to be available to share with those you encounter?

How can you be less **PREOCCUPIED**?
How can you be **PRAYED UP**?
How can you get yourself **PREPARED**?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |    

- 1- Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? How is this language helpful in describing followers of Jesus? What might it take to grow in your courage to be where God wants you to be, and to share what God wants you to share?
- 2- Read Colossians 4:1-6. What is the role of prayer and engaging the world around us? How often do you pray for your interactions with others?
- 3- Read Acts 1:8. How does Jesus position at least one of the reasons His followers receive the Holy Spirit? And how far does this witnessing work extend?
- 4- Read Acts 16:11-15. How do you envision Paul and his team engaging this community of women gathered for prayer at the riverside? What was the impact on Lydia and her household?
- 5- Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. What is the context of “being ready to make a defense”? Why must one’s hope be explained in this passage? What does this say about the Christian demeanor in a world that is often challenging and even hateful toward us?
- 6- Read John 4:23, 24. What do you think it means to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth? Why might this be an important way to share the faith with the Samaritan woman? How might this be an important way to share the faith with anyone who does not currently believe?
- 7- Read Acts 13:1-4. What contributed to the discernment these believers experienced? What do you see them doing in community? What can the church learn from this passage about growing as a witnessing community?

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