

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (September 24, 2023)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This is our second week in a four-week Fall series focused on one of the more challenging, guilt-creating, fear-inducing, subjects Christians (I speak on behalf of many Presbyterians) talk about (or don't) ... evangelism (how we share the good news of Jesus with others). When we understand that Christians do not take the evangelistic lead, the Holy Spirit does ... it changes everything about how we share our faith. If the Holy Spirit guides us, prompts us, gives us the words to speak, prepares the person in advance for the conversation we'll have, and is responsible for the result (not us) why would we be afraid? Instead, we begin to look forward to these conversations, eager for what God will do. Our responsibility: listen to the Holy Spirit and then walk across the room. We find renewed confidence, and growing excitement, as God's kingdom grows one person at a time, each life eternally changed, and we, by God's invitation, play a part in that. Let's walk across rooms, streets, Garden Rooms, together.

Walk Across the Room: Walk (John 4:1-26, 39-42) 19-24, 27-38 omitted below

"¹ Now Jesus ... left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' ¹³ Jesus 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 will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You

are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' ... ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' ...

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.'" John 4 (ESV)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage? About the woman of Samaria? About the people of Sychar?
2. What does this passage tell us about how much God values one person? Why did He "have to" pass that way? Verse 4

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. What does it mean, "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans"? Are there people we (you and I) have no dealings with today?
4. What does this mean, "he would have given you living water"?
5. What does it mean, "He told me all that I ever did"?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. Why do you think Jesus spoke to this woman? How did He begin the conversation? How did He know details of her life?
7. How does Jesus provide "Living Water"? How do people try to satisfy their thirst? What thirst does Jesus satisfy for you?
8. Are there aspects of your life people are unaware of? How important is it for you that God knows everything about you?
9. How does being In-Tune with the Holy Spirit change your view of Christian evangelism? Does it ring true? Is it Scriptural?
10. How many friends do you have that are far from God, from different ethnic, educational, and economic, backgrounds?
11. Who is God prompting you to walk across the room, stick out your hand, and meet? What is currently preventing you?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to help you listen when He prompts/speaks. Ask God to give you the courage to walk across a room. He will walk with you because He loves you ... and them.