

Series: Inspired by Grace

Sunday Message: "Greater Grace Inspires Urgent Mission"

March 19, 2023, by Brent Knox

Note: Consider this idea for your small group: Watch the scene of Jesus & the woman at the well from "The Chosen." You can easily find it on YouTube (7' 30"). We will be reading about this exchange in the passage below...

Icebreaker:

What might be so important to you that you would consider skipping a meal for it?

Sermon in a Sentence:

Our shadow mission can replace God's better mission.
(See some examples of shadow missions, below.)

General Discussion [Groups of 4]:

Read John 4:1-42

1. How did Jesus show this woman grace? What three things did she have going against her?
2. What is significant about Jesus choosing this woman as the first person to whom he revealed himself (see vv. 39-42)?
3. What does "leaving her water jar (v.28)" reveal about Jesus impact on the woman? How did she affect others (vv.39-42)?
4. Why didn't the disciples have the same effect on people in the town as the woman? What mission were the disciples on?
5. How does the principle of the harvest apply to the disciples? And to you?
6. Is doing God's will as essential to you as eating food? Why or why not?
7. What can you learn from this woman about telling others about Jesus?

Application Discussion.

8. What shadow mission tempts you? See below. Are you more like the woman or the disciples?
9. Have you accepted God's mission for your life? Can you join in on Hometown's mission?

Hometown's Mission: To make healthy disciples who passionately love Jesus and authentically love people.

10. What are one or two practical steps you can take to pursue this mission?

According to John Ortberg, the top 10 shadow missions people have are:

1. Just give me home, health, and a hefty 401 (k)
2. Busy, busy, busy.
3. I don't care who's in charge—as long as it's me.
4. Show me the money.
5. It is all about me.
6. Maintaining hidden addictions.
7. I'll think about it tomorrow.
8. Looking nice by avoiding conflict.
9. Climb the ladder first, put people second.
10. Shop until you drop.

Pray: For the person on your right, that he/she would ID his/her shadow mission & replace w/God's better mission!