

Beautiful Feet: New Identity, New Mission, New Legacy
Growth Group Discussion
John 4:1-44

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- Influential Bishop, Augustine of Hippo, reflecting on his life before salvation said: "our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you..." Did that characterize your life before Christ? How did Jesus satisfy your restlessness once He saved you?

1. READ John 4:1-30; 39-42 and discuss the following:

- Due to the long-standing ethnic and religious conflict between the Jews and Samaritans, many Jews refused to pass through Samaria as they viewed Samaritans as second-rate because they were only half Jewish. Yet, John writes that Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" (John 4:4)
 - What does Jesus's insistence on going to Samaria teach us about God's character?
 - Put yourselves in the 12 disciples' shoes. What do you think they were feeling as they went with Jesus into Samaria? What lesson could Jesus be wanting to teach them by bringing them there?
 - Has God ever brought you into an uncomfortable setting to teach you something about Him or His heart for the world? What was that like?
- In John 4:7-12, Jesus and the Samaritan woman are discussing water. As they're going back and forth, Jesus reveals to her that the water she desires is only able to satisfy for a time. He says in verse 13-14: "Everyone who drinks of *this* water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again..."
 - How does Jesus use water as a metaphor for the desires of the Samaritan woman up to this point?
 - Pastor TK Kennedy said: "teenagers run after a lot of things thinking they will fulfill them. They had prom last week.... over 300 students came. They went, and for that evening, their hearts were fulfilled...yet, the next day...it's over...when they wake up, they wake up thirsty like the Samaritan woman."
 - Idols fulfill for a time, yet they cannot fulfill us eternally. Like counterfeit money, they have the appearance of the real thing but they hold no value when compared to real money. What are some of the counterfeits that we look for to fulfill our souls instead of the thirst-quenching presence of Christ in our lives?
 - Reflect on your Christian life. How has the living water of Jesus sustained and fulfilled you throughout your life?

- After having a conversation with Jesus, the Samaritan woman’s eyes are opened. Verse 28 says, “so the woman left her water jar and went away into town....” She then tells all the people in the town about Christ and helps lead them to him. Verse 39 says, “Many Samaritans from that town believed in him *because of the woman’s testimony....*”
 - The Samaritan woman’s identity changed once she had an encounter with Christ. She was a down-and-out, possibly promiscuous woman who became a powerful evangelist that brought the good news to her town. Jesus changed her story.
 - Think about your identity before Christ. How has Christ redefined how you see yourself?
 - In verses 40-41, the Samaritan townspeople come out to meet Jesus and listen to him. After listening, the Samaritans tell the woman the following in verse 42: “it is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have *heard for ourselves*, and we know that this indeed is the Savior of our world.”
 - The thought of bringing the Gospel to unbelievers in our context can be unnerving. Yet, John 4:39 says that the Samaritan woman told the town her testimony. When is the last time you shared what Jesus has done in your life to someone who didn’t know him? How did it go?
 - We often place far too much responsibility on ourselves when sharing the Gospel. We instinctively think that salvation is dependent upon us. This tends to prevent us from regularly sharing the Gospel. But verse 42 tells us that ultimately it was hearing the word of God that brought salvation to the Samaritan townspeople. How does knowing that salvation comes from the Lord give us courage to share the Gospel and our testimony with even more regularity and boldness?
 - In moments of doubt and trepidation, what are some ways that you can remind yourself that salvation comes from God alone?
2. TK Kennedy’s big idea of his message was: ***A saving encounter with Jesus results in a new identity, new mission and new legacy.***
- Jesus gave the Samaritan woman a new identity resulting in a new mission and ending with a new legacy. TK Kennedy mentioned that like the Samaritan woman who became a missionary to her people, all Christians are missionaries.
 - Who are you actively trying to bring the good news to?
 - What, if anything, is preventing you from doing that?
 - TK Kennedy also said that in the Bible, God often sends people to places they don’t want to go. (i.e. Jonah to Nineveh, Peter to the Gentiles).
 - Is he now leading you to engage somewhere or with someone outside of your comfort zone?

- TK Kennedy ended his message by talking about legacy. He spoke about how God changed his legacy from a C-student with a poor reputation to a man of God who has been pastoring students for 35 years. He said the only way God was able to change his legacy was to remove a blockage.
 - Think about your legacy. What do you want to be known for? Is there something that is blocking Christ's living water from flowing more powerfully through you?

PRAYER:

- Take some time to reflect and praise God for how He has entered into your life and given you a new identity, mission and legacy. Rest in the fact that you're God's child and that His love for you is not dependent upon how many people you share the good news with or how many times you have sinned. You're His child and nothing can separate or change his love for you. (Rom 8:37-39)
- Pray for anything the Holy Spirit revealed during this discussion time.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.