

House Rules

The Wild Card - Hope Beyond The Odds

Pastor Jake Watkins



Ephesians 2:8 NLT

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Jesus is the wildcard that changes EVERYTHING

John 4:3-27 NLT

So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a

rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.” “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband—for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?” Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!” Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?”

God is NOT done when MY story looks like it’s over, JESUS gives hope beyond the odds

God is NOT done when THEIR story looks like it’s over, JESUS gives hope beyond the odds

1 Corinthians 15:57 NLT

But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the WILDCARD who gives me VICTORY where I only see DEFEAT

John 4:13 NLT

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

John 4:28-29 NLT

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

Jesus is the wildcard that I am CALLED to share, NOT hoard

John 4:39-42 NLT

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

Talk About It:

Students

1. When has Jesus worked in your life in an unexpected way?
 2. How does it change the way you see Jesus knowing He can use your mistakes and struggles for His glory?
 3. How does it change the way you see others knowing he can use their mistakes and struggles for His glory?
 4. What area in your life do you need to trust that Jesus can use it for good, even if it seems bad right now?
 5. How might Jesus want to use your story to point people to Him?
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Adults

1. Where in your life have you felt like giving up on a person, a situation, or even yourself?
2. How does seeing Jesus as the 'wildcard' give you hope in those

moments?

3. Jesus met the woman at the well in her shame and brokenness.

How has Jesus met you in unexpected places or times in your life?

4. What past wounds or mistakes is Jesus turning into a testimony through his faithfulness?

5. What keeps you from sharing the story of God's grace in your life with others?

Going Deeper - Bible Study

Primary Texts: John 4:3-42; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Genesis 50:20

Observation

- What surprises you about Jesus' choice to speak with this Samaritan woman?
- What repeated patterns do you see in the woman's responses to Jesus?
- How do the disciples react when they return and see Jesus talking to her?

Interpretation

- What does "living water" represent in this passage, and how does it contrast with the water from the well?
- How does the woman's transformation from shame to bold witness illustrate the power of Jesus as the "wildcard" in her story?

Word Study

- "Living Water" (hydōr zōn): Literally "flowing water," symbolizing spiritual life and eternal satisfaction in Christ. (vv. 10-14).
- "Worship" (proskuneō): To bow down, to adore — Jesus redefines true worship as "in spirit and in truth" (vv. 23-24).

Connection to the Gospel

- Just as the woman at the well received a gift she could never earn, we too are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Jesus is the wildcard who breaks barriers, meets us in our brokenness, and turns defeat into victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Application

- Personal: Where in your life do you feel like you've been dealt a "bad hand"? How might Jesus be offering you living water in that situation?
- Relational: The woman at the well immediately shared her encounter with others. Who is one person you could invite to "come and see" Jesus in your life right now?

All Pray

"Lord, You are the wildcard in my life. Help me trust You to turn what looks like defeat into a testimony of Your glory. Give me the courage to share the gospel of Your grace with others.

REMEMBER:

The gospel is the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ... That he died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the 3rd day to defeat sin and death!**

Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something - GO BE THE CHURCH!

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