

MEN'S BREAKFAST - EVANGELISTIC GRACE

1. When you were growing up, who were the people you were told to avoid? What part of the city or country would you be warned about? What would have happened if you had gone there?
2. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?
3. Why are the messages in TV commercials so appealing and persuasive?
4. In what ways are people you know prejudiced?

John 4:1-26 (NIV) 1 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I 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 won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband."

18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet."

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, 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, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."



DISCUSSION: Most women drew water in the morning or evening. Jews considered Samaritan spiritual and ethnic half breeds. Rabbi's rarely talked to the women in their own families and it was rare to talk other women at all. This is the only time before his trial that Jesus admits to being the Messiah. This conversation makes several strange turns (kind of like Jesus and Nicodemus (3:1-21))

Why did Jesus leave Judea?

How do you think the Disciples felt about going through Samaria?

If "nice" Jewish girls fetched water in the morning and evening, what did Jesus risk talking to this woman?

How did the Samaritan woman react when Jesus asked her for a drink of water?

How do you picture her saying these words? What kind of tone was in her voice? (vs 9)

Why did she react this way?

How did Jesus turn the tables on her in verse 10?

In the woman's reply, what is she really saying?

Why does Jesus change the topic of conversation so abruptly to her personal life (v. 16-18)? What strikes you about the way he responds to her claim not to have a husband?

Why do you think this woman changed the conversation to focus on a religious controversy?

How would you describe this woman's response for most of her conversation with Jesus?

- a. Searching - "Is it possible this is what I've been looking for?"
- b. Avoidance-"I think I'd better try to change the subject."
- c. Skeptical-"Who does this guy think he is?!"

How do you think the woman felt when Jesus talked to her?

Luke 15:4-7 (NIV) 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Matthew 9:10-13 (NIV) 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 12 On hear-

ing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NIV) 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV) "My people have committed two sins: They have forsak-

en me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Revelation 21:6 (NIV) He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Isaiah 58:11 (NIV) The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 12:3 (NIV) With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Ezekiel 36:27 (NIV) And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

13. What most influenced the woman to consider that the man she was talking to was the Messiah?

- what he said about "living water"
- the way he knew so much about her without being told
- his accepting her though she was a loose-living Samaritan woman
- when he claimed, "I who speak to you am he"

14. What was Jesus saying about worshipping God?

- The Jews' worship is better than the Samaritans' worship. The object of true worship - the Messiah - comes from the Jews.
- Focusing on where to worship misses the point.
- True worship is from the heart.

15. What was this woman thirsting for?

- intimacy in her relationships
- intimacy with God
- acceptance of who she was
- forgiveness for the life she had led
- meaning and purpose in life
- basic survival in life

16. What is significant about Jesus choosing this woman as the first person to whom he revealed himself (see vv. 39-42)?

17. What does this story reveal about God's attitude toward sinful people?

18. In what ways can you identify with the woman in this story?

19. How did Jesus demonstrate his love for this woman?

20. How did the woman react to her encounter with Jesus?

21. What do the woman's actions reveal about the way Jesus affected her life?

REFLECTION:

1. What are *you* really thirsting for?

2. What did it take for Jesus and this woman to get past their cultural differences to communicate like this?

What can you do to help overcome barriers that exist in your "world"?

3. What have been the most significant changes you have gone through in your spiritual life?

- a conversion experience
- a spiritual crisis
- changes in my beliefs
- different choices than my family
- switching churches/denominations

4. Who does Jesus claim to be?



Father, your Word assures us that no one is beyond hope. You accept and love each one of us, in spite of our failures. You offer us salvation. You offer us mercy. You offer us love. Thank you for intervening in our lives and rescuing us from the bondage of sin. We praise you for your mercy, forgiveness, and love.