



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: He Came as Grace

Speaker: Guest Speaker, Derwin Gray, Lead Pastor, Transformation Church

Scripture: John 4: 4-42

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

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.)

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."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

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."

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

"I have no husband," she replied.

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

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

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

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the

saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

John 4:4-42

Sermon Outline:

- I. Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well to rest. The Samaritan woman comes to draw water at noon. Since this was the hottest part of the day, this implies that she didn't want anyone to see her.
- II. Grace crucifies ethnocentrism, classism and sexism. Jesus crucifies all three when he asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Jesus affirms her dignity as an image bearer of God by asking her for a drink.
- III. Grace meets our true needs. The Samaritan woman wanted physical water, but the physical water was only a shadow of what she truly needed -- Living Water.
- IV. God is honest about our sin. The Samaritan woman was honest about her sin. When Jesus tells her to get her husband she admits that she does not have a husband. And Jesus tells that she is telling the truth and tells her about her past sin. The Samaritan woman may have been thought of as a prostitute, but if she had committed adultery she would have been stoned to death. Because she lived in a world where women were dependent on men for their survival with very few options available to them, the Samaritan woman was a victim. Jesus encounter with her is a reminder for men to affirm the women in their lives and to "have their back." The Samaritan woman did not hide her sin. If we want to hide, we should hide in the scars and the cross of Jesus.
- V. Grace heals and sends us on a mission. The Samaritan woman is the first person that Jesus tells that He is the Messiah. God loves the underdog and the imperfect. The Samaritan woman leaves her water jar and goes to tell others about Jesus.
- VI. Why was the Samaritan woman receptive? Jesus met her even knowing her sin and she receives His grace. She leaves as a healed missionary.
- VII. Many Samaritans believed because of the Samaritan woman's testimony.
- VIII. The Samaritan woman is a picture of Jesus' multiethnic church.
- IX. Go tell the lost about grace.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Derwin Gray, of Transformation Church, recounts how the Samaritan woman's need for water leads her to a life-changing encounter with Jesus and His gift of Living Water.

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?
 - How did your family of origin see the role of men and women in society?
 - Pastor Gray shared how during his time playing professional football, one of his teammates, aka "The Naked Preacher" would share Jesus with the team. Who shared the gift of God's grace with you?
 - If you are willing to share, what is the moment that the tsunami of God's love overwhelmed you and you were forever changed?
 - Who will you share God's gift of grace with next?
 - What are some fears or obstacles that hold you back from sharing God's love with others?
 - What feelings, thoughts, etc. arise from hearing the good news that God loves the underdog and the imperfect?
 - After the Samaritan woman receives Jesus' Living Water, she leaves her water jar behind. The water that she thought she needed was only a shadow of what she really needed. What shadows are you reaching for? What shadows is God asking you to leave behind?
 - God is asking all of us to come out from the shadows and to share our experience of Jesus' amazing grace and love with others. How do you respond to this call?