

John 4 -- From run and hide to "come and see":
Jesus and the woman at the well

- Think back to a time you knew shame, embarrassment, or guilt because of your own wrongdoing. What was your response to being "found out?"

- Background on our passage today: John 4:1-42
 1. The path of Jesus' travel (Judah north to Galilee), and the significance of Jacob's well

 2. The history of the Jewish/Samaritan relationship

 3. The cultural context of interaction between men and women (particularly Rabbis)

- Read John 4:1-42*

*A brief note about the nature of her need and the #metoo movement.

- Small Group Discussion Questions:
 1. Take a moment to focus on Jesus in this encounter.
 - a. What is Jesus' role in this conversation? What does he ask/offer? What else is notable in his words?

 - b. What do we see of His humanity in this passage?

 - c. What do we see of His divinity? (note also John 2:25)

 - d. What does Jesus reveal about himself and the shifting center of worship?

2. What about the woman?
 - a. What reaction does she have to being approached by Jesus?
How might his approach have impacted her (emotionally, socially, etc...)?
 - b. What does she seem to want from him?
 - c. How does she respond to Jesus knowing her heart (initially)?
 - d. What is noteworthy about her leaving Jesus? What has changed?
 - e. What do we learn from the power of her testimony (vs 39-42)?
 3. In the end, what is it that the Samaritans come to believe?
- For further study/reflection:
What parallels do you see in the way Jesus interacts with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and his disciples? What value is there in his in patient and veiled approach?
 - Application:
 1. If you and Jesus were alone at the well, if not “go call your husband,” what would be the nature of his request? How would he lovingly expose your heart’s affection while calling you to a deeper knowledge and love of him?
 2. How can we gain insights as parents in our approach to our children in the midst of their sin/guilt/shame? In what ways can we exercise affirmation and patience while walking with them to see the fullness of their need to be freed from their sin?
 3. Are we characterized as those who have come to a both a deep understanding of our sin and a deep understanding of God’s grace? Does it lead us to abandon thoughts of personal reputation and regard as we invite others to “come and see”? Why or why not?