



Growth Group Questions
April 28, 2024
“You Are Seen”

Context:

In the third chapter of John we saw Nicodemus – an esteemed ruler of the Sanhedrin – making his way to see Jesus as night. In the fourth chapter of John we see quite the contrast. A Samaritan woman making her way to Jacob’s well in Sychar in order to get water in the middle of the day. She has no idea of what is about to happen. Yet, both of them are searching in their own way and both of them recognize that Jesus has something more to offer them.

John 4:4 tells us that Jesus had to go through Samaria. Oftentimes Jewish people traveled around Samaria because of their distrust and dislike of Samaritans. However, Jesus is on a mission and John wants to make it clear that it was necessary for Jesus to travel through Samaria.

Jesus is tired and is resting by Jacob’s well (see Genesis 33:18-20). A Samaritan woman arrives to get her water for the day and a conversation ensues. As is often the case with Jesus, the conversation is taking place on two different levels. The woman is speaking on a practical level while Jesus wants to move the conversation to a spiritual level. The same was true for his conversation with Nicodemus.

He offers her “living water.” In her mind this would have meant that he had some way of getting his bucket (even though he did not have a bucket) all the way down the spring that fed the well with water. However, this is not what Jesus was talking about. He was offering her the gift of the Holy Spirit. The water that would fill her and give her peace and joy.

Notice the words that Jesus uses. They are not words of judgment or condemnation. Rather he uses words like “gift” and “never thirst” and “free” and “eternal life.” This is gospel language. He wants her to know about the abundance he is offering. As we read at the end of John 4 she gets it and becomes the first evangelist in the gospels as she returns home and calls her community to “come and see” the one who could possibly be the Messiah.

Scripture:

John 4:7-19

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.^[a]) 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 livestock?” ¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ 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.” 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.

Psalm 42:1-5

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

⁴ These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One^[d]
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.

⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

John 4:28-30

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

John 4:39-41

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.



Questions:

1. Pastor Paul began his sermon by speaking about how we all interact with others on a daily basis, but often do not really see them. What does it mean to “really see others”? How can you learn to do this better?
2. The title of this week’s sermon is “God sees you.” What comes to your mind when you think about this statement?
3. What does the Bible say about how God sees us?
4. In Psalm 42:2, King David says: “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” What does that mean to you? Can you restate this verse in your own words?
5. What did Jesus mean when he spoke of “living water” in John 4:10?
6. In John 4:13, Jesus says: “. . . but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.” What does it mean that whoever believes in Christ will never thirst again?
7. Pastor Paul said that the narrative of the Samaritan woman at the well changed because Jesus had seen her. How did being seen by Jesus change this woman’s narrative?
8. How should the knowledge that God sees you impact your personal narrative?
9. Pastor Paul told us that Jesus waited at the well for the woman to appear, and he also said that Jesus waits patiently for us. What does that mean to you?
10. What key lessons can we learn from the story of the Samaritan woman at the well?

