

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

June 3, 2020

John 4:12 - 18

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

Pastor Tom did not begin with a question this evening but noted that the further along in this chapter we go, the dicier it gets.

Verse 12

“Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?”

*This is one of the reasons Jesus “must need” to go to Samaria: to bring the word to this woman. We also must remember that at this point in the story, the woman does not know who Jesus is. How many people today don’t know who Jesus is? Some people have a “head” knowledge of Jesus but not a “heart” knowledge/relationship with Jesus.

Then Pastor Tom posed the question:

How do you know who Jesus really is?

A variety of good answers followed:

- We experience His goodness and mercy.
- Because the Word of God tells us and the Holy Spirit gives testimony that draws us to the Cross where we accept the Lord and His Salvation. We glean more knowledge through family and friends testimonies.
- God/Jesus brought some out of dark places or difficult times into the light.
- The death of a close friend caused concern and even fear of the afterlife which led to prayer at the altar to accept the Lord.
- Asking God to take away hurt after a relative died resulted in comfort and peace in just a short time.

Pastor Tom recapped these great lessons learned with childlike faith.

*So the woman has encountered Jesus but doesn't realize she is in the presence of God. She questions Jesus about his being greater than Jacob, which leads to our second question:

Do you have things or someone that is greater than Jesus in your life?

*Jesus must be first and everything else second (spouse, children, grandkids, job, church family)

*This is meat, heavy stuff, so these questions can only be answered personally with much soul searching.

Verse 13

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again."

*As they are standing by the well, Jesus knows the woman is thinking about the physical water which will not keep her from getting thirsty again. She will always need more water.

*We live in a Biblically illiterate time. Generations have no Biblical knowledge, so we must be careful not to talk over people's heads with "churchy" words because they have no idea what we are talking about. Jesus began His conversation with things that the woman would understand. Another example of this is the Teen Sunday School class where Tom puts not only the Bible references on the board but also the page number where the students can find the reference.

Verse 14

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

*In this verse Jesus moves from the physical water to the Living water, from earthly to Spiritual discussion.

Pastor Tom described an artesian well out in Wilmore that was gushing, flowing, running and never running dry. This is how Jesus was describing the Living Water for the woman. He was setting boundaries in comparing the physical water and the Living Water, which produces eternal life.

Pastor Tom referred to Lisa's fear of death and his own dad's concept of death with this quote: I am ready to die, I am not afraid to die, I just never did it before." And he disclosed Sherri's situation causing them to be thinking about physical death a lot recently. What hope would they have if it weren't for Jesus? Hope can be called anticipation of things to come.

Pastor Tom also described the difference between ministry to saints(believers) and to those who don't have a relationship with Jesus. Each of these have a different way of looking at death as it nears.

Referring to Dale Bourdess, Tom said Jesus brought him through a time that would crush many, but he had peace about himself. Dale's concern was for his loved ones.

Verse 15

“The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”

I John 5:20

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

*Knowing, realizing, recognizing who God/Jesus truly is.

*This can help us answer the first question of the evening: The Spirit will give us understanding of truth.

*The work of the Holy Spirit centers on Jesus, His plan of salvation and His coming again.

*In this verse, the Holy Spirit is now working in the woman's life. She did not even know she would meet Jesus that day but Jesus “must needs” to go to Samaria to meet her. This is God's prevenient grace: that we can encounter Jesus even before we know who He is.

*The Holy Spirit is guiding her to salvation even though the crucifixion has not occurred yet.

*The Holy Spirit uses conviction through grace and mercy to reach people. He does not use condemnation (putting people down, busting their chops).

Romans 8:1-2

“1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

*God does not condemn, but He does convict.

Verse 16

“Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.”

*When Jesus told the woman to go get her husband, it was an integrity check. The woman has a choice; she can lie or tell the truth. Jesus already knew about her, but gave her the opportunity to tell the truth. Our sinful nature is to lie. (Kids are quick to learn to lie - ‘It wasn’t me!’).

Verse 17

“The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:”

*She chose to tell the truth: she has a man but he is not her husband. Jesus commends her for her true answer (well said). He does not judge her but speaks the truth in love. You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free.

Verse 18

“For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”

*Jesus reveals the whole truth, He knows all about this woman’s life. He made that journey into Samaria (must needs) and this is one reason why. The woman had a hard past and has an uncertain future, like some of us. The Bible does not give details of her circumstances, did she have 5 husbands that all died or what? Jesus came into the world in a culture similar to ours today: A man could divorce a woman for any reason. Or maybe she was abused.

*Never-the-less, Jesus did not condemn her. Living with a man who is not her husband indicates zero commitment level: either one of them can leave at any time. Similar in our culture today where living together is now the norm. This type of relationship, aside from the Biblical inconsistencies, offers no hope for future commitments.

*But Jesus speaks the truth in love and gives her respect for her honesty/integrity. He sees her for what she could be IF she chooses the Living Water.

*We cannot judge other people for their mistakes because we make our own mistakes. We need to see people for who they will become through Jesus Christ. We need to see them with new eyes from a different perspective...from God's perspective!

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*