

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series “Jesus & The Thirsty Person” – John 4:1-26

FELLOWSHIP

From antiquity to the modern day, humanity has expressed a thirst for meaning, significance, and fulfillment. The quest to find purpose drives people to seek achievements or exploits in the hopes of finding social recognition or personal satisfaction. Given that history records endless accounts of disappointment, Scripture still stands the test of time with its observations and assessment of the quest for human accomplishment. Proverbs says, “The eyes of man are never satisfied.” Or Ecclesiastes, “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.” The Bible reveals that this thirst is a soul issue, and that only God can give meaning to life and the reason for one’s being here. Paul relates this to the Philippians in his letter to them, “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” The famous theologian Augustine related it this way, “You (God) have created us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until we find rest in you.” The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is beautiful on so many levels, but at its core it is about a person who’s soul finds meaning and purpose because she met Jesus. The Psalmist concurs, “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.”

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

This chapter in John continues the stories of Jesus’ encounters with those seeking. From a religious academic in the previous chapter to a religious vagabond in Samaria, Jesus moves with loving precision to see their hearts changed and their souls saved. As a group, read out loud together verses 1-42, as Jesus’ message spills over from her time with him to the entire city. Our key verse this week is John 4.24:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- The Samaritans were an ethnic and religious community that had ancient ties to the Jews. But they were scorned because of the following differences: They only followed the first five books of the Bible, located their worship at Mt. Gerizim instead of Zion, and they were ethnically cross-bred. Why was the woman confused when Jesus asked her for a drink? What was the “gift of God” that Jesus was referring to? What does this passage teach us about the nature of God? How would that affect the style or way we worship him?
- As Jesus was helping the woman narrow in on what exactly the worship of God should look like, Jesus started to become the object of her faith. How was her progression similar to the rest of the city in vs. 39-42? When has your own testimony helped guide someone to Jesus? Why is Jesus necessary for true worship of God?
- Jesus broke through a host of cultural barriers by engaging with the Samaritan woman and spending days in their city teaching their people. Once the prejudices had been wiped out, it revealed that she and everyone in their city were spiritually hungry. She had been remarried so many times, the religiously pious would probably avoid her. What are some of the religious stigmas that might keep us from witnessing to others? How can we overcome those pretenses?

PRAY

Beachside Summer Fest is this weekend! Pray for the logistics and preparations of the day. Then let’s be praying together for the gospel witness to be clear through the music, preaching, and on the ground evangelism. Also pray about how you might participate in the day, or who you might bring who needs the Lord!

