

STEP UP . . . AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE (Part 2)

John 4:1-18, 25-30, 39-42

- ***What have been some of the most powerful experiences of my life?***
- **The most powerful experience a person can have is to meet Jesus and have their life transformed by Him.**
- *"The woman . . . ran back to the village, telling everyone, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?' So the people came streaming from the village to see Him."* (John 4:28-29)
- **We can meet with Jesus in our personal devotion times, in worship services, in Life Group gatherings, and in everyday moments.**
- **One of the most powerful and consistent ways to encounter Jesus is by committing to be part of a Life Group where people gather together to worship, pray, study the Scriptures and develop godly friendships.**
- **The account of the "Woman at the well" presents a pattern of what takes place when we and others have encounters with Jesus.**
- ***What happens when we make time to meet with Jesus?***

When We Encounter Jesus:

HE TRANSFORMS OUR <u>LIVES</u>

- *"The woman left her water jar . . . and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 'Come and see a Man who told me everything I ever did! Could He possibly be the Messiah?'"* (John 4:28-29)
- **It is impossible to encounter God's Son and remain unchanged.**
- **Jesus changes our lives by *Meeting our Needs.***
    - *"'Do You think You're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can You offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?' Jesus replied, 'Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. <u>But those who drink the water I give will never be</u>*

thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.'" (John 4:13-14)
    - **Jesus can meet our financial, physical, relational and spiritual needs.**
    - Jesus - "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."* (Luke 4:18-19)
    - **Jesus continues to meet our needs as we continue to meet with Him.**
    - "*Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me."* (John 15:4)
- **Jesus changes our lives by *Confronting our Struggles*.**
    - *"'Go and get your husband,' Jesus told her. 'I don't have a husband,' the woman replied. Jesus said, 'You're right! You don't have a husband - for you have had 5 husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now.'"* (John 4:16-18)
    - **Jesus confronts our struggles to convict us of sin, to heal our hurts and to change our lives.**
    - *"We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church."* (Ephesians 4:15)
    - **In a Life Group we will find people who care enough for us to speak the truth in love.**
- **Jesus changes our lives by *Expanding our Understanding*.**
    - *"The woman said, 'I know the Messiah is coming - the one who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.' Then Jesus told her, 'I am the Messiah!'"* (John 4:25-26)
    - **The woman was familiar with the prophecies about Jesus, but struggled to understand them until she encountered Jesus.**
    - *"But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."* (1 Corinthians 1:24)
    - **Life Groups help us better understand the Lord by offering: 1) new perspectives, 2) Scriptural illustrations via personal experiences, 3) a venue for the Holy Spirit to move and speak, and 4) cultivating an atmosphere where it's okay to be transparent and honest.**
- ***What are some changes I need Jesus to bring to my life?***

When We Encounter Jesus:

HE TRANSFORMS <u>OTHERS</u> LIVES

- *"Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, 'He told me everything I ever did!' . . . They begged Him to stay in their*

village. So He stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear His message and believe. Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world.'" (John 4:39-42)

- **Jesus works through us to change people's lives when we *Overcome Cultural Differences*.**
    - *"The woman was surprised (when Jesus asked for a drink from the well), for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, 'You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are You asking me for a drink?'"* (John 4:7,9)
    - **When we love Jesus we will love people from other backgrounds.**
    - Peter - *"I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear Him and do what is right."* (Acts 10:34-35)
    - **Participating in a Life Group challenges us to build deep relationships with people who might be very different from us.**
- **Jesus helps us change people's lives when we *Invite People To Meet Him*.**
    - *"The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could He possibly be the Messiah?' So the people came streaming from the village to see Him."* (John 4:28-30)
    - **Jesus said that we are to be His "witnesses" - telling everyone we meet about who He is to us and what He's done for us.**
    - Jesus - *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere."* (Acts 1:8)
- **Jesus helps us change people's lives when we *Spend Time With Him And Them.***
    - *"When they came out to see Him, they begged Him to stay in their village. So He stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear His message and believe."* (John 4:40-41)
    - **Life Groups provide opportunities to connect people to Jesus.**
    - *"Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world.'"* (John 4:42)
- ***Who are some people in my life that I need to introduce to Jesus?***

- **A woman's meeting with Jesus changed her life and many others lives.**
- ***What are some things I need Jesus to change in my life?***
- ***What are some ways that I want Jesus to use me to change others?***