



Lent 2024

John 4:1-42

The Samaritan Woman

Once again the Apostle John has provided us with a lot of details on people, time, and place while excluding some very important tidbits about the woman at the well. Since these few specific tidbits are missing we tend to fill in her background on assumption, preconceived notions, opinions, and this can cloud our perspective. We also need a foil character to Jesus and the worse that other person is, well the better we feel about ourselves right? So we play up that these five husbands were never legally hers, but we do not for a fact know that to be true. We do know at least one was not. She is much less likeable if she is the local “get around town gal” not liked by her own people and she belongs to a people group who are not accepted by Jesus’ people. We assume the worst of her because we only get a highlight biography. We choose to see a one-dimensional woman with a shady lifestyle. If we think about it, isn’t that how we see a lot of people? Especially the ones we do not want to really know? The people we assume have the really messy lives or don’t think, speak, or live the way we do? What about immigrants or refugees? When is the last time you stopped to think about all of these peoples’ stories, their hopes and dreams? Sadly, we don’t because we are worried about how we will be impacted and not how we can extend the hand of love.

Here is spin on the woman at the well. She may be all the things we think of her, but what I see is a woman who is bold enough to cross some boundaries. She is not scared to be out and about in broad daylight. She didn’t settle for easy answers. She engaged in conversation with Jesus until she understood. She showed hospitality to a stranger, a man, and a cultural enemy if you will. And then she went back to where she was not liked and told everyone the good news. Pretty bold and brave if you ask me.

Read John 4:1-42 & Discuss

- 1** Compare and contrast Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well with Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:1:21). What stands out to you the most about each encounter? Think back to your encounters with Jesus, who are you more like: Nicodemus or the woman? Share with your group.
- 2** Who is your “woman at the well”? What people group or individual (no names) do you avoid at all cost? Why? How as a group can you support one another in breaking down barriers in order to have kingdom conversations?
- 3** What does this passage of scripture teach you about the character and love God?