

A Way Forward

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SAY WHAT? ⇒ America's "Best Place" to Live?

SO WHAT? ⇒ An Ordinary Rest Stop with Eternal Consequences - John 4:7-26

Her _____, His Response (vs. 7-9)

- o "Give Me a drink."
- o A Way Forward...Barriers

Her _____, His Response (vs. 10-19)

"You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

- o A Way Forward...Extending

Her _____, His Response (vs. 20-26)

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on June 28, 2015

"A Way Forward"; John 4:7-30

■ Questions for "Group Discussion"

- Sunday we heard how an ordinary rest stop had eternal consequences. Can you think of a time in your own life when God used a seemingly ordinary event or moment to do something great?
- What reasons do followers of Jesus have for extending compassion to those whose backgrounds, behaviors, and/or beliefs differ from their own?
- In order to speak truth into today's culture, what are necessary steps Christians must take?

■ Questions for "Personal Growth"

- **Monday-To go...or not to go?** Please begin by reading John 4: 1-42, a passage we will revisit each day this week. The Samaritans were considered to be "outcasts" by the Jews. In our culture today, what types of people would be considered as such? What did Jesus do in vv.1-3? How can we determine when we should approach unbelievers or avoid needless confrontation? (To answer, see Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 1:35; John 8:16, 28-29; 16:32). What is your natural tendency when given the opportunity to associate with those who are less desirable but in need of the gospel? Do you use avoidance, or pretend to agree with their false beliefs? Or, do you lovingly, respectfully and boldly seize the moment of opportunity?
- **Tuesday-Will you go out of your way for others?** In John 4:4. The phrase "had to pass through" implies that, for whatever reason, this was not the most desirable route, yet Jesus knew He had a "divine appointment" and went out of His way to get there. Who initiated the conversation; the Samaritan woman, a social outcast, or Jesus? How did He "break the barrier"? Do you go out of your way to approach those who would otherwise be deemed worthless or "lost"? Jesus cared more about His mission for God than the cultural expectations of His peers. In order to receive direction from God, we must spend enough time with Him to be able to distinguish between His will and ours. Do you?
- **Wednesday-Patience in His love...** From our primary passage, pay close attention to the exchange between Jesus and the Samaritan woman (vv. 7-26). How did Jesus demonstrate patience and a focused resolve, avoiding getting off track from her non-essential responses? Did she understand the spiritual concept behind what He was saying at first? Do you get impatient if the seeds that you sow do not bear fruit as fast as you would like? Please read John 3:1-15. How would you have reacted to the resistant and skeptical Nicodemus?
- **Thursday-Selling the #1 "product"...** If you look at Jesus' evangelistic model as if he were making a sales call to an important client what similarities do you find? How did Jesus follow through with the steps of (1) gaining an audience with her, (2) gaining their trust, (3) identifying the need, (4) offering a solution, and (5) not diverting off course. How did He gain her trust from a place of humility? How did He point out her need but with compassion? If you were in His shoes, how would you confirm that she had a clear understanding of what He was trying to convey? From His perfect example, what will you change in how/when you approach others with the gospel?
- **Friday-Making a way with boldness and confidence...** When you go through the process we studied yesterday, how would you hope that your "client", having now bought into the product (gospel) you offered, would respond? Would you agree that a person, who has been approached with acceptance (respectfully, compassionately, yet straightforward and honestly), would be more likely to listen to what you have to say and tell others? Pray to receive God's guidance in reaching out to others, making a way forward for His Kingdom.