

# WHEN JESUS ... Sees You - May 12th 2024 - Pastor Sandra

John 4:1-14 & 41,42 (I encourage you to read the entire passage so you can see the whole story.)

"Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a]) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Vs 41,42 - "And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

#### 1. Jesus sees the Samaritan Woman

For whatever reason the Samaritan woman had lived a complicated life having had five husbands and now living with a man to whom she was not married.

Jesus could have ignored her at the well, and culturally He should have and we see why in verse 9 "The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])" But Jesus -... Jesus saw her.

Probably for most her life, when people saw her they ignored her or whispered about her because you don't have 6 men in your life and

QU	ESTI	ON	S:
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1. Why is it important to be seen?

2. Have you ever felt invisible?

3. Why did the Samaritan woman felt seen by Jesus?

not have a reputation.	But He saw	in a totally	different w	ay – and he
began a conversation	with her that	normally w	vould have	never ever
happened.				

Did you know every person has a fundamental need to be seen. That's why as children we say, "Watch me, Mommy! Watch me, Daddy!" We don't want anyone else to watch; we actually just want it to be our loved ones. Have you seen your kids face light up on the stage at school when they see you in the crowd.

William Tammeus "You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around—and why his parents will always wave back."

Why do we need to be seen? Why do we long for a God who sees and what difference does that make to us? It makes all the difference in the world because to be seen is to be significant.

**Psalm 139:16:** "Before I formed you I saw you. My eyes saw your unformed body."

God saw us before anyone else did. He foresaw us into being and once he foresaw us, he created us, then he watches over what he has created.

God's eyes are loving and when we know that, we can relax in his presence. To be seen is to be significant and to be seen is to be safe.

Jeremiah 24:6 "My eyes will watch over them for their good."

**Psalm 33:13-15** "The Lord looks down from heaven. He sees all the sons of men; from his dwelling place he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth—he who fashions the hearts of them all, he who understands all their works."

He understands us and understands as he looks.

To be seen is to be significant, it's to be safe, it's to be understood, but it's also to be free—be free under the gaze of your heavenly Father.

1. Do yo time is pe	u believe God's erfect?
	s the hardest you while you wait sponse?
tired of do	shouldn't we get oing what is good g to Gal. 6:9?

To	be	seen	is	to	be	strengthened.

Jesus doesn't glance in your direction. He sees you.

#### 2. Jesus sees her heart

John 4:16-18 the conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus continues.

16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. 17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

Here we see Jesus, really seeing her in her situation, revealing his knowledge that her life has been one of a desire which was not satisfied her despite her trying to find what she was looking for in six relationships. This is what all of humanity does. We look for fulfillment in people, jobs, relationships, drugs, alcohol, sex and it never fills what only God can fill. We were created to be filled up on living water and nothing else will satisfy.

He knew immediately she was in a bad situation in her life. And for us even in our Sunday clothes he sees past the exterior. We can try to mask what's underneath, but the word tells us

## **1 Samuel 16:7** For the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

He sees you in your sorrow, your grief, He sees you in your pain, He sees you in your heartache, He sees you struggling with depression and fear. He sees your addiction, He sees you in your family or marriage situation and like the Samaritan woman He sees all and incredibly he doesn't point out your only ifs or what ifs. He sees you and still loves you.

When He sees us, he offers us life and hope and peace.

#### Isaiah 53:3-5

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows[a] that weighed him down.

### QUESTIONS

 Does Jesus see our appearance or our heart? 2. How can Jesus truly see who we are? 3. Have you ever been quieted by the love of God?

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."

We all need the saviour – with our hidden sins and our obvious ones.

**Zephaniah 3:17**"He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love."

Do you know that feeling, to be quieted by the love of God, where you just dare to sit and be loved and be seen?

Your life is made for significance and Jesus sees your heart you and wants to give you the abundant life that you need.

He loves every person who he has created, and that means you and it means me. To be seen is to be loved and God looks on us with love.

## 3. When Jesus sees her, she sees Jesus.

## John 4: 28-30, 39-42

28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

39 Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" 40 When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, 41 long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. 42 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."

After the conversation with Jesus, she is impacted profoundly. The outcome of this meeting for the woman was her forgetting what she came for, I mean what's water when you can have living water, so she dropped her water jar and ran home. When she got there, she didn't just go into her house and keep the greatest thing she's ever known to herself, she told her village, "Come, see a man who told me everything that I did. Can this be the Christ? It was not only that Jesus knew her marital history but that he perfectly understood the inner

# **QUESTIONS:**

1.What happens when the Samaritan woman recognizes Jesus as the Messiah?
2. Was her life ever the same? How did this impact others?
3. How are you able to see God back?

desires in her life and was able to tell her what she really needed. Her problems couldn't be answered with another man, but they could be answered with the Son of God.

When you meet the living water, do you keep it for yourself? Or do you not share that with everyone you meet, because how can this living water stay lidded in our lives? Mustn't it spring up like a well for all those who are thirsty?

#### **Matthew 5:14-16**

14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

The Jews had always known no one can see God and live, but Jesus said this:

**John 14:9** "Anyone who sees Me has seen the Father. You want to know what God is like? Jesus says, Look at Me.

Jesus sees the person in the crowd who longs to be seen, who longs to be known. He only asks one thing of you and me—"I see you. Look at Me."

You can see him—not literally of course, but with eyes of faith—with eyes that look into this book and meet him, the living Word and the written Word. God knew we wouldn't be able to see him literally.

#### TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus saw the Samaritan woman and her life was never the same. It is so important to be acknowledged, and that is what exactly what Jesus does with us. That is exactly what he did with the Samaritan woman, he sees her. But seeing and observing are not the same thing. Seeing is understanding what you are observing; involves empathy and wisdom. Empathy to meet people where they are in life in that moment and wisdom to see it through a spiritual/kingdom like lense.

By seeing the Samaritan woman, Jesus was able to speak to her heart as an individual. Jesus saw through her past experiences, mistakes, and flaws. He saw who she really was. When Jesus does

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?	

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that, he is able to see our real value,	, and it is a great one! So great he
was willing to pay for it with his suffe	ring and life.

2. Jesus sees through any mask or filter. We may want to give an image to the people around us of who we are, or even worse, we try to do that with ourselves. Trying to convince ourselves we are a version of us that we feel happier with or that we aspire to be. Knowing in our hearts we are not, at least not in the present. For Jesus nothing of those matters. Doesn't matter how hard we try to give our best version of ourselves, he sees who we truly are. That should not be intimidating but actually liberating. We don't need to fake or convince no one. We can feel OK with who we are today before Jesus because there is no reason to lie or pretend.

Jesus saw through all the deception and sadness in the Samaritan woman's life. He saw who she really was. When you check the gospels, one of the first people he reveals his identity as the messiah directly is the Samaritan woman. He told her straight up; I am the Messiah! Why? He saw her heart; he saw who she really was. Her true identity, and it was beautiful as well as powerful. She became the first recorded evangelist in the gospels. Bringing the whole city out to have an encounter with Jesus.

# 3. You want to know what God is like? Jesus says, Look at Me.

How about you? Is your pain stopping you from seeing God like Mary in the Garden, who was crying so hard—this is such an irony—she couldn't see Jesus and he was standing right next to her. What difference does you seeing Jesus in your life make? That Jesus sees you makes little difference unless you look back, unless you actually meet his gaze now in your life. The Bible tells us one day every eye will see him.

How life-changing it is to go into every day knowing I can see the God who sees me. He guards me as the apple of his eye. And remarkably Psalm 32:8 says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you shall go. I will guide you with my eye." What does that mean? It means God will guide us with his eye but he cannot do that unless I look back. If I look back and I look into his eye, I see where he is looking, how he is looking, who he is focused on. He's focused on you.