

worship? In what way did Jesus say we are to worship God? How do we involve our spirit in the worship of God?

It is not sufficient to engage only our mind and body in worship. The woman had not yet confronted the truth of her sinfulness, but she was seeking the truth about the Messiah.

*25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming--the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!" ... 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" - John 4:25-26, 29 NLT*

*What truths had the woman accepted as she ran back to the village to tell them the news? Are there areas of your life that you are trying to keep hidden? Is God calling you to shine the light of His truth in those dark corners?*

### **WRAP-UP**

The woman at the well didn't want to face the truth of her sinfulness, but the one she was seeking, the Messiah, had come and revealed "everything she ever did". In Jesus's presence, we cannot deny our need for a savior. If we have accepted Jesus as our savior, then we must acknowledge the truth of our sinfulness, no matter how painful, so that we may repent and accept His forgiveness. Hiding and ignoring sin doesn't remove it, it only allows sin to take root and grow. We all have sinned and when we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Don't let pride deprive you of God's grace.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. - 1 John 1:9 NLT*

*Challenge – As we prepare to enter the solemn season of lent, ask God to show you the ways you can draw nearer to Him. Consider joining others as we memorize scripture, pray, and fast during the 40 days leading to Easter Sunday.*

## **Don't talk about that!**

Pastor Phillip Causey

### **INTRODUCTION**

All of us have subjects we would rather avoid talking about. Sometimes it is because our opinions are not shared by those around us. At other times it is because we feel we just don't know enough to carry on a conversation. But sometimes it is because of shame or embarrassment it causes us. When Jesus engaged the Samaritan women in a conversation by the well, she found herself discussing something she really didn't want to talk about. But Jesus wants to talk to us about the things we need to address in our lives and sometimes that means talking about things we really don't want to talk about.

### **Ice Breaker**

*What is one topic of conversation you avoid bringing up in your circle of friends?*

### **Key Passage**

*13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." - John 4:13-14 NLT*

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Hide and Seek**

*6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." - John 4:6-7 NLT*

When Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman, it is noontime at the well. This was not the common time for drawing water. Most of the village women would have drawn their water in the cool of the morning. But this woman came to draw in the heat of the day. Perhaps it was an indication of her isolation from the community who knew her reputation. Maybe she was hiding because of her shame. But she encountered Jesus there.

*9 The woman was surprised, 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 4:9 NLT

*Why was she suspicious of His request? It is difficult to read the tone of her response, but do you think she asked out of curiosity, fear, resentment, or something else?*

*10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." ... 13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. 15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."*  
- John 4:10, 13-15 NLT  
*8 Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. 9 For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. - Psalm 107:8-9 NLT*

Jesus was no longer asking the woman for anything, now He was offering her something.

*How does Jesus contrast the water from the well with living water? We seek water to quench our thirst, but there are deeper needs and desires that we long to satisfy. What are some of the substitutes we try to satisfy our deepest needs with? What does Psalm 107 tell us the Lord satisfies us with?*

*The woman wants this living water. But what two reasons does she give? Why do you think she mentioned not having to come to draw water?*

## 2. Nothing is Hidden

*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!" 19 "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. - John 4:16-19 NLT*

*13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. - Hebrews 4:13 NLT*

It is curious that Jesus' response to the woman's request for living water was to tell her to bring her husband. As He reveals her story, we see why she may have been rejected by the villagers and hiding from encounters with others. By opening the wound of her guilt, she now can apply to remedy of grace, if she is willing to do so.

*Why do you think Jesus didn't start by saying, "you are an adulteress"? What difference does it make if our sins are revealed or if they are confessed?*

Hebrews 4:13 says we are accountable to God. We know all have sinned, but if we try to hide our sins and refuse to acknowledge them before God, how can we repent and receive forgiveness? Even though the woman answered truthfully, she was still hiding her sin. However, now she realized Jesus was sent by God.

## 3. Truth Revealed

*20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?" ... 23 But the time is coming--indeed it's here now--when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. - John 4:20, 23 NLT*

Even as she recognized that God had sent Jesus, the woman still voiced her objections and grievances rather than repenting. Although her question involved worship, the woman focused on the disputed location for worshipping God. Did Jesus tell her where to