

GROUNDED IN GRACE

MISSIONAL LIVING: BECOMING A BROKEN HEALER IN A WOUNDED WORLD PT 3

Will you give me a drink?

6 Jacob's well was there and Jesus tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.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.)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." John 4:6-10 (NIV)

Jesus displays his vulnerability

I love how God reveals himself in little details. This one detail is displayed in verse six, **Jesus was tired!** The God of the universe was tired. In becoming human, Jesus dealt with tiredness, fatigue and thirst. Shouldn't that give us comfort when we deal with tiredness and thirst in our physical and emotional souls? And the most incredible thing is the fact that scripture reveals Jesus' vulnerability in its pages.

Secondly, Jesus speaks about his weakness and vulnerability. Notice that He starts a conversation with a question, "Will you give me a drink?" It is a simple question which packs an incredible punch. Jesus opens up about a need in his own life. He just doesn't say, "I am fine." He displays vulnerability in a form of a question. This allows the woman to respond to a need within his soul. By doing this one thing, he opens up a conversation on the level of need instead of superiority. In a sense, he was humble. He displays weakness which others can meet, even though he could have fully met, created or manifested the water himself. He allowed the woman to sense that she can contribute something to his life and have a purpose in their conversation.

Beloved, we need to show this kind of vulnerability. We need to be able to tear down the walls that we have built and enter into the daring world of risk and reward. Do we need to be wise? Yes! But we need to be willing to show our weaknesses, allow another to come along side of us and give them a place in our story while we participate in their story as well.

Jesus crosses cultural barriers

The woman is shocked. A man talked to her but not only a man but a Jewish man as well. We need to remember it was a cultural taboo for Jewish people interact, have conversations or be in the presence of Samaritan. So here, we see Jesus breaking cultural and man made boundaries. Jesus willingly sees and accepts the woman where she is in her life story. She does not have to change, go on another side of the street or become someone else. Jesus lovingly and compassionately crosses boundaries other have built to enter into a conversation with a broken soul to fill her thirst

There are risks in crossing boundaries but there is the reward to discovering another soul. The risks could be that you are ridiculed and cast out by your own family and friends. But there are incredible rewards of entering into the land of another and giving them the incredible presence of listening soul. One caring heart can open up a boarded soul which has been desperate to see the light of day. The question is: Are you willing to go and cross those boundaries in your own heart?

Jesus communicates with dignity

The one theme that permeates the whole dialogue is the fact that Jesus treats her with dignity. He doesn't stomp her in the ground. He gently converses with this woman in fullness of grace, dignity and gentleness. He enters into her world and shows her the gentleness of his Father. He enters into her time line and lifts her up by being below in stature. He enters into her soul by opening up the portals of his own soul. The power of a gentle word and the dignity of the humanity are displayed in an incredible way through a simple question: Will you give me a drink?

What question do you need to ask someone this week?

Steve