

GROUNDED IN GRACE

MISSIONAL LIVING: BECOMING A BROKEN HEALER IN A WOUNDED WORLD PT 5

EXPOSURE AND ENGAGEMENT

John 4:19-26

How do you respond when someone exposes your sin or your motives? Do you have painful patterns in which you have been living? It is very uncomfortable to have the magnifying glass peer into your soul and expose your inner life. In one sentence Jesus does just that. He exposes this woman's painful life of rejection and unhealthy relationships.

Escaping Exposure John 4:19-20

17 "I have no husband," she replied. . . . 19 Sir, the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

We must be careful not to give hidden motives to this woman, but as we peer into these words we can notice several communication patterns after Jesus exposes her soul. First, she answers his statement abruptly or tries to dismiss the truth altogether. Then she changes the subject to get the spotlight off herself. And lastly she begins to blame the Jews about a subject (worship) which has nothing to do with the conversation. This woman tries to escape having her sin, her unhealthy patterns, and her way of life exposed. We can't be too hard on her. How often do we do the same when the truth magnifies our weaknesses? How often do we do the following?

Blame- We begin to make our problem someone else's- we refuse to take responsibility.

Deny- We refuse to be exposed and plead guilty to our sin.

Dismiss- We refuse to see the severity of our actions- "It is no big deal."

Defensive- We put up the guard against truth

Engagement of Heart John 4:21-25

As I thought about this next dialogue, I pondered why Jesus stayed on the issue of the theme of worship. It is quite obvious that this woman does not want to deal with the exposure that has just come to the light of day. However, as I listened again, I realized Jesus' response was right on target. Jesus states four themes that slowly slice away at the woman's heart.

1. Worship- This is the woman's main problem- worship. She is worshipping her broken life of unhealthy relational patterns. She sees worship as a place of residence but not a residence in her heart. Jesus goes right after the thirst and the leaky cistern within her soul. If this woman will understand what she worships instead of who she worships, she will gain a new pathway to live her life.

2. Spirit- Jesus then states the obvious. The only way to worship God is by the Spirit of God. It is not the place of worship but the posture in worship. The Spirit is the one who convicts, sorts, and converges in our soul to bring us to the end of ourselves. When we worship in Spirit, we begin to see God for all the reality of His glory.

3. Truth- The woman has tried to dodge and hide, but Jesus does not let her escape. He points out that when truth enters a her soul, it reveals the reality of her worship. Worship is a holistic event of the heart. It is not compartmentalized by a place or a time but encompasses the totality of one's life.

4. Revelation - The woman tries one last time to dodge Jesus' challenges. She tries to starve off that the time is not right yet by stating, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus reveals himself. With that incredible statement, Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Worship always reveals Jesus! Worship will reveal truth within our souls and reveal our Savior as well. It is here the woman finds herself looking at the face of God and looking at the face of her own heart. She has been exposed but she has also been loved! Jesus has showed her the ugliness of her depravity, but he has also given her the beauty of her dignity. Jesus has shown forth his love but has also challenged her with truth. Jesus has had a dialogue with her but has also made her dialogue with her own heart!

What does she do next?

What will you do next?

*Love,
Steve*