

# GROUNDED IN GRACE

## MISSIONAL LIVING: BECOMING A BROKEN HEALER IN A WOUNDED WORLD PT 6

### Encountering Jesus Pt A Healing the Broken Patterns

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." 27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:25-30 (NIV)*

I have pondered over this devotional for a while now. I have read and reread this story so many times. The more I read it, the more thoughts enter my mind. So I took a step back in order to look at this woman's life anew. And although I do not know all her story, I do know that this woman was a living, breathing human being like all of us. And I do know that this woman lived a life filled with marital rejection, separation because she was born a Samaritan woman, and loss of relationships with others, God and, most likely, herself. Lastly, I do know that this woman encountered Jesus. As I pondered, questions would pop into my mind like: "What effect does meeting Jesus have on this woman? How does knowing Jesus change her life and the patterns she has been living in? Or does it?"

Why does she leave her water jar?"

I knew that there is something new here to be discovered, but I have struggled to put it into words. And even now, I hope that my words will make sense. As one who rarely gives you a thesis sentence, I am going to write one now. Simply put...

### **WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER JESUS IN AN INTIMATE WAY: JESUS BEGINS TO HEAL AND TRANSFORM YOUR BROKEN PATTERNS**

Now, we can't lose sight that the main purpose of this story is that Jesus continually discloses himself as the Messiah. However, I would like to look at what happens when people encounter Jesus as their Messiah. So I am going to look at some themes in this woman's life as an example.

### **1. Denial→ Openness**

After the woman discovers Jesus, she runs to the town and states, "*Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.*" Just a little while ago, she was in denial. Now she is exclaiming with openness about a man who knew not only about her but knew her inside and out. When you encounter Jesus, you are able to be open with your heart, open with your struggles, and open with your weaknesses. There is no need to deny or hide; instead, you can live in openness and honesty.

### **2. Shame→ Acceptance**

As we have seen before, this woman had many "cut strings" in her story. She walked to the well with more likely thoughts of loneliness, shame, and doubt. But now she runs back to town with excitement. She gives an invitation for others to experience the same kind of acceptance that she had just experienced. There is a transformation of disposition. When you experience Jesus, you are accepted and loved for who you are. Because of that fact, you don't need to live in shame, doubt, or disbelief but in acceptance and love. In doing so, you can give others an invitation to be loved as you are loved.

### **3. Separateness→Selflessness**

I have always wondered why she left her water jar. In doing research and pondering on this subject, several commentaries state that the original Greek language uses a verb which states that it was purposely left. William Hendriksen comments, ". . .she purposely leaves the water jar at the well so that Jesus may quench his physical thirst, and so that he may know that she has taken to heart the lesson about the nature of true religion." In short, she is no longer separated but becomes selfless. She came to the well with one purpose and left with another. She came to the well with one understanding of God and left with another. She came to the well thirsty but left with giving water to another who needed to quench his thirst. Some of the broken patterns have been healed. Some of the denial has been opened to honesty and some of the loneliness has been changed to community. When you encounter Jesus, your purpose and understanding and life are changed.

Has the encounter with Jesus changed the specifics of your life?

*Steve*