

GROUNDED IN GRACE

MISSIONAL LIVING: BECOMING A BROKEN HEALER IN A WOUNDED WORLD PT 7

Encountering Jesus Pt B Living a Transformed Life

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)

Last month, we noticed that when the woman at the well encountered Jesus in an intimate way, Jesus began to transform the broken patterns of her life. We now continue with this theme in three more ways:

4. Disbelief → Belief

In the middle of the conversation, the woman does not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. She actually dodges his questions and then changes the subject to worship. It is in this conversation that Jesus reveals the truth about real worship. Then the woman states, "*I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.*" The stubbornness of her heart continues to show until Jesus reveals himself in the words, "*I who speak to you am he.*"

This revelation changes her life. She now believes. She now sees something different. The eyes of her soul have been opened and set free. She doesn't live behind false assumptions, arguments, or stubbornness. She lives in astonishment, understanding, and a belief that someone is a lover of her soul. Jesus transforms her understanding of herself, her world, and, especially, those around her. When you encounter Jesus, what has he changed in your life?

5. Rules → Relationship

She once worshipped with rules and regulations. Now she has a real relationship based upon authenticity. She once worshipped at a place, but now she worships a person. She once worshipped the past instead of the promise for a redeemable future. She has seen and now experiences the power of a transforming God. This woman finally entered into the arms of a loving Savior.

How often do we worship traditions, rules, and places instead of entering into a real relationship with our God? How often do we forget that God does not want just our attendance inside the doors of the church but wants the attendance inside the doors of our souls? When we encounter the living God, we encounter the power of true relationship. Have you experienced his power and presence inside your soul?

6. Loneliness → Invitation

Before she met Jesus, this woman walked alone to the well. There were no conversations, no dialogues, and no sounds of laughter. It was the silence of the song that rang through her soul. But now she walks with a community. She actually invites people to meet Jesus. More than likely these are the same people who gossiped about her, pushed her aside, and casted her out of their presence. But Jesus changes this woman's perspective. She doesn't go inside her home and hide. No! She reaches out and sends an invitation for them to come and see a Savior. She is bold and confident because she knows who has seen her soul. And she knows the one who has loved, accepted, and transformed her soul. This woman no longer lives in loneliness but in the invitation of the gospel. And in doing so, she gives an invitation to the gospel. Jesus changes the way she lives her life!

Steve

WHEN WE ENCOUNTER JESUS, HOW DOES HE CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES?