

GROUNDED IN GRACE

MISSIONAL LIVING: BECOMING A BROKEN HEALER IN A WOUNDED WORLD PT 8

DO YOU SEE THE WOUNDED?

John 4:30-38

30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." 33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" 34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." (NIV)

Wow! We have been on an incredible journey with Jesus and this woman. Jesus has brought transformation to this woman's heart. She is excited, loved, and accepted, and has fallen not backward into fear but fallen forward into faith. And before we get to the conclusion, we have a little conversation between Jesus and his disciples. Let's listen in:

The Model of the Messiah

Now remember that the disciples had just witnessed the end of the dramatic conversation; however, they did not know the content nor the connection made with this woman. So they urge Jesus to eat something like nothing ever happened. But something incredible had happened- this woman found Jesus! He uses this time to teach the disciples something about what really drives and nourishes his life. It was not Jesus' power or position but it was Jesus' servanthood. Jesus' whole purpose for being was to do the will of the Father. It was self-sacrifice, selflessness, and servanthood. Furthermore, it was to complete the work of the Father. Jesus had one focus and that focus was on furthering His Father's kingdom. Jesus modeled this for his disciples. Jesus embodied this for his disciples. Jesus focus was for the disciples. And it is the same for you and me. What is your focus- is it on the frustrations of this world or the wounded in this world?

The Message of the Messiah

If we forget the context, this woman has gone back to the town to tell them to come and see this person. Now they were coming. Can you imagine as Jesus talked with his disciples this great dust cloud from people's sandals coming toward them? Jesus challenges his disciples to look, to see, and to notice. He said, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Beloved, the wounded hearts are all around us. They are at the grocery store, on the streets, in the parking lot, and even in our pew. Do you see them? Missions are not just across the ocean but are a way of living, breathing, and seeing the world as people who are dying and knowing you have the cure. Jesus challenges the core behavior and beliefs of our hearts. Is life about me or is it about others? Is life about my pleasure or about his priorities? Do we see the wounded right in front of our hearts or are we so concerned about our pleasures that we miss the blood right on our front door?

Do you see the wounded right in front of you?

The Mission from the Messiah

Many times we don't engage with others because we don't know what to do or what to say. Many times we are scared because we don't want others to think wrong of us or to be embarrassed. Here is the good news: it is not about you! It is not about our work, nor our presentations, nor our efforts. Jesus is doing the work. He is the one who has done the work ahead of time and continues to do the work. We are just the vessels of his work. He sends us into the battle fields of the wounded not to be the healer but to be used as an instrument for the Great Physician. We have a mission to go, to love, and to serve. We have a commission to be a light and to bring hope to a darkened world. We are called to have a vision beyond ourselves. Go look and see the wounded right in front of you!

What is your vision and mission for your life?