

July 11 - John 4:1-29 The Wells we Dig

Read John 4:1-29

The Father is seeking worshippers. From start to finish this is a conversation about worship, about worth ship, to what we give ultimate worth. That Father is not seeking worshippers for his sake but for our sake.

1. Read Exodus 20: 1-17. It was Martin Luther who said we cannot break commandments 2-10 without first breaking commandment one. Reflect on a few of the commandments together asking what we would need to give ultimate worth to besides God to break this command? What impact does it have upon us, upon our society, when we foster such worth shipping?
2. Much of our understanding of this interaction rests upon the ways Jesus interacts with this woman that was so utterly different from cultural expectation. Recollect from the sermon what cultural expectations were present. What do we learn about the character of Jesus from the ways he didn't meet those expectations?
3. Read Jeremiah 2:1-2, 5-8, 11-13. There were two meanings for the phrase living water. First was moving water as opposed to still water. The second meaning arose from biblical passages like this. The woman of Samaria is thinking of the first meaning for a portion of the conversation, Jesus is trying to point her to this biblical meaning. From this passage what is it that Jesus is seeking to offer her?
4. In his query – go and call your husband and come back – Jesus seems to be inviting her to consider what she has given ultimate worth to in her life – where she may have dug a well in search of water and come up empty. As you reflect on your own life where have you perhaps dug a well and come up empty?

The quote from David Foster Wallace may help trigger reflection here.

“Everybody worships, this is without exception, and the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god to worship is that pretty much everything else you worship will eat you alive”

5. In Jesus' response to the woman in vs. 26 who is he revealing himself to be?
6. We become what we worship. Having begun to see who Jesus is what change do we see in the woman of Samaria? How are the disciples expressing that transformation in relation to the cultural expectations of their day? How does worship of God in Jesus change us?