

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 37

Lesson Title: Woman at the Well

Take Home Point: Jesus accepts sinners and fills us with living water.

Warm-Up:

What are the consequences of not accepting a person where they are in life? In his excellent book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, author Phillip Yancy describes a family of four generations that lived in a state of sustained "ungrace." The oldest was the daughter of an alcoholic father. He was abusive and hateful. She was determined never to be like him, and indeed, she never touched alcohol. But her heart was so hard toward her father that she could not love her children; they grew up knowing only unforgiveness and broken relationship. Those children left their mother as soon as possible with no intent to see her again, but her influence remained. Because that generation refused to be restored in relationship to their mother, their children also were raised in anger and bitterness, leaving an indelible mark on relationships as they made their way through life.

Read: John 4:1-42; Romans 5:6

Observation (What happened?):

What two qualities are required to worship God?

According to Romans 5:6, what were we able to do for ourselves when Christ died for us?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?

To what does Jesus refer when he talks about the "living water"?

Insight:

In today's reading, Jesus certainly had no expectations of the Samaritan woman when he offered her living water. 1 John 4:20–21 says, *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."* (NIV) God accepts us *just as we are*. He does not expect us to fix ourselves up, to reach some level of "goodness," before he accepts us. In Jesus, we are fully restored to him in relationship. He does not accept our sin – but *"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8 NIV) And just as he extends his grace to us when our relationship with him is broken, God wants us to do the same for those around us. We don't have it in ourselves to do this, but God gives it to us to give to others. We become the channels of his living water to an "ungraceful" world. You know how it feels to be accepted by another in spite of your shortfalls and failures – offer that to a world thirsting for living water.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you spend time every day in worship?

How is the living water of Jesus Christ displayed in your life?

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