



IN SEARCH OF TRUE WORSHIPERS

Part 3

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true." (John 4:16-18 NIV)

I remember as a young boy that my mother seemed to have an uncanny way of knowing what my older brother and I were up to. Seems we could scarcely get away with anything. I remember her telling us she had eyes in the back of her head. She could see what we were doing even when she wasn't looking at us.

Even as a small boy, there was something unsettling about the thought that she might know my every move. Looking back, it probably kept us out of trouble to some degree. "Better not do it. Mom will know."

In His search for true worshipers, Jesus often encounters us at moments when we are at our worst. In Acts 9, the historian, Luke, tells us it was while Paul was "breathing out threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord" that the Lord stopped him in his tracks and turned his life around on the road to Damascus.

He still does that. Like the Samaritan woman at Jacobs well, Jesus finds us when we've become cynical about life and about Him. He seeks us out when we are living in ways that are completely wrong. He's not shocked at our behavior. He comes to us right where we are and takes the initiative to start a relationship.

In John 4:10, Jesus had offered the woman of Samaria the opportunity to receive from Him the water that would forever quench her thirst. Though she doesn't understand what He means, the thought of not having to ever come to this well again struck a chord of hope inside her. Verse 15 records her response to Jesus' offer, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

She jumped at the chance to change a part of her life that had become such drudgery. The Lord, however, wanted to change her whole life, not just a small part of it.

No doubt Jesus' next words must have completely caught her off guard. "Go, call your husband and come back."

We can only imagine what must have initially raced through her mind. "Does he know about my current relationship? Is He setting me up to judge me about how wrong my life is right now?"

Perhaps with a tinge of embarrassment, she chose to be forthright with this stranger. Verse 17 gives her short answer, "I have no husband."

If His first statement caught her off guard, what Jesus said to her next must have shaken her to the core. Look at Jesus' reply, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." (John 4:18 NIV)

Like my mother's claim to having eyes in the back of her head, the thought of someone knowing every wrong thing you've done is very unsettling. She must have wondered, "How does this Jewish man know so much about me?"

The fact of the matter is our Lord still knows everything about us...every rattling skeleton in our closet, and still seeks us out to have a relationship with Him. That is boundless grace without measure! He knows me, yet He loves me, and seeks a genuine love relationship with me.

David, the ancient king of Israel, was moved by this truth as well. Notice what he wrote in Psalm 139:1-6

- 1) O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
- 2) You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
- 3) You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4) For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- 5) You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.
- 6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

Like this woman of Samaria, or the Apostle Paul, or you and I, our Lord finds people in the worst moments of their life and reaches out to save them. His relentless search is for those who are lost to receive the gift of God and drink of the water that will give them eternal life. These will become the true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:4 says, Jesus HAD to go through Samaria. Why? Because He had a diving appointment with a broken life. At that well outside of Sychar, there was a woman whose life was filled with hurt, disappointment, and all of the baggage that comes with repeated hardships. Jesus wasn't put off by this woman's sinful lifestyle. His appointment with this Samaritan woman would, forever, change the course of her life.

The great news... He still accepts appointments today! Are you available to meet Him?

Just some Food For Thought...
~ Pastor Frank

