

"But He needed to go
through Samaria."
– John 4:4

4th Sunday of the Great Fast (Samaritan Woman)





Encountering God in a Way That Transforms Your Life

What enabled her profound change, and why do we often remain unchanged?



Our restoration healing begins with Him

- "But He needed to go through Samaria." (John 4:4)
 - God initiates
- EX: God sought Adam
- EX: The Lord Christ sought Zacchaeus
- EX: The people of Nineveh
- **"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."** (John 6:44)

Responding to God's advancements

- Could it be that the Lord is approaching me, and I am not aware?
- Our senses could be numb to God's advances.
- EX: The Shulamite woman
- "I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one..." "I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him. I arose to open for my beloved...But my beloved had turned away and was gone." (SS 5:2-6)
- EX: Lot's wife



The Desire to Connect



- **"For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food." (John 4:8)**
- **"How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (John 4:9)**



Respectful

- "Sir..." (John 4:11)
- Our respect and honor to God and His things aid in our restoration.
- **"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."** (Matthew 12:32)
- Respect the time we share with Him, His presence, His home (church and our bodies).



Humility (Vulnerability)

- She humbled herself
- "I have no husband." (John 4:17)
- Vulnerability is not a sign of weakness, but of commitment and love.
- Love is vulnerable.
- True change occurs only with true repentance, and true repentance occurs when we make ourselves vulnerable.



The Canaanite woman

- "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."
- "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."
- "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."
- "Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Matthew 15:22-28

Her Request/Inquiry

- **"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." (John 4:20)**
- **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)**
- Worship is a reverent act where we offer glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving to God.



She acknowledged the past but focused on the present

- Her past could have paralyzed her; instead, it propelled her forward.
- **"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"**
(John 4:29)
- EX: St. Paul – **"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."**
(Philippians 3:13)
- EX: St. Peter
- Our past experiences can be steppingstones, not stumbling blocks, when we surrender them to God.





Conclusion

- Encounter God in a way that can transform your life
 1. Connecting with Him
 2. Respecting Him
 3. Humbling herself before Him
 4. Desire Him – to worship Him
 5. Acknowledging her past but focusing on the present moment and the change that can had