

JESUS IS PURSUING YOU

Jesus is pursuing us. He is looking for true worshipers with whom He can have an intimate relationship.

KEY POINTS

1. Prior to the events narrated in John 4, Jesus had been ministering in Judea with His disciples and many people were baptized as a result.
2. When the Pharisees found out that many people were being baptized under His ministry, Jesus decided to leave Judea and make His way back to Galilee.
3. Jesus' journey took Him through Samaria. We are told that at about 12 noon He became tired and decided to have a seat at a well.
4. At this stage all of this seems random – until a Samaritan woman appears at the well to draw some water and Jesus begins to engage with her.
5. The first thing we need to recognize is that there is nothing random about Almighty God. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and in control of all things.
6. We experience what can be described as “Divine Orchestration” – the idea that God is coordinating the experiences in our lives with the intention of guiding us into having an intimate relationship with Him.
7. In this case, it “so happens” that Jesus is at this well by Himself (His disciples having gone into the town to buy food) and along comes this woman. Then Jesus begins to interact with her.
8. Jesus uses events we experience in our lives to get our attention, with the goal of expressing His personal interest in us.
9. Events that awaken a recognition within us that we need God; whether it is “I’m in a bad situation and I need help”, or it is “God has really blessed me and I need Him in my life.”
10. The Samaritan woman goes to draw water from the well, but she encounters Jesus in a very intimate way – it was just the two of them at the well.
11. Jesus asks her for some water and she in turn basically says, “Our nations don’t interact with each other.” In other words, “We are from two different worlds.”
12. Her response reflects the internal conflict we experience during times of divine awakening. We rehearse all the reasons we can’t live for God, or live in faith, or obey the word of God in our lives.
13. As she asserts that they are from two different worlds, Jesus says, “If you knew who you are speaking with, you would understand that you are on the threshold of a life-transforming experience” (paraphrased).
14. The Samaritan woman’s response illustrates why we need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind to move from a carnal mindset to a spiritual mindset.
15. She asks, “How are you going to give me this water? You don’t have anything to draw it with and the well is deep!” She is still focused on the physical well.
16. But later she says, “Yes, I want this transformational experience. I want to be filled with this water that springs up into everlasting life.”

KEY SCRIPTURE: John 4:1-26

1. Jesus says to her, “Go and call your husband” and she says, “I don’t have a husband.” Jesus says, “You’re right. You have had five husbands and the man you’re currently with is not your husband.”
2. We need to recognize that Jesus knows everything about us – both good and bad – and He is still pursuing us!
3. The woman started speaking about where worship should take place. Even though she was sincere, she was misguided because she was still operating with a carnal mindset.
4. Jesus turned the conversation to ‘true worship’, which is conducted “in spirit and truth”, and said, “God is pursuing true worshipers.” Jesus is pursuing you.
5. Jesus spoke about true worship after talking about “water that springs up into everlasting life” in reference to the transformation we experience when we are filled with the Holy Spirit – the transition from a carnal mindset to a spiritual mindset.
6. An article in Christianity Today describes true worship: “True worship, in other words, is defined by the priority we place on who God is in our lives and where God is on our list of priorities. True worship is a matter of the heart expressed through a lifestyle of holiness.”
7. True worship is about a transformation of our hearts, minds and attitudes. It is about being completely yielded to the will of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2).
8. And when true worship is cultivated in our lives, Jesus will reveal his true identity to us (John 4:26). Jesus is seeking true worshipers.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to speak with the Samaritan woman without His disciples?
2. Discuss why Jesus may have chosen to speak to this woman in spite of her questionable past.
3. What can we do to cultivate a spiritual mindset?
4. How would you define what true worship is in our modern time? Discuss.
5. List practical steps one can take to engage in true worship.







Prayer Time

Lord, I thank You that You are always pursuing me and that You know exactly where to find me.
 I pray that my worship will be acceptable to You as I cultivate a mindset of Spirit and Truth.
 In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What type of thing(s) are you most prone to losing (cash, clothing, information...)? What is your usual strategy for finding lost items?