



Theme: Radical Women – You don't know what you don't know.


“The Woman at the Well”

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Weekly Memory Verse: 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” – John 4:13 & 14


Family Activity for the Week: Everyone has a story. God alone knows that story, the whole story. God also loves all His people and sees their heart and considers their past. Can each family member think of a person who they thought was one way but then, after learning their story (their background) thought of them in a different way? This week, challenge each other to seek out someone you wouldn't normally talk to and see if you can find out more about them. If they are “unchurched” ask them to join you at church one day this month.

Monday, July 12 – Read Luke 7:36-50

 This is the story of the “sinful” woman who anointed Jesus' feet. Much like the woman at the well, this woman was obviously an outcast. Put yourself in her place. How do you think she felt entering the home of a Pharisee – a reputed religious leader? How did Jesus make her feel? The alabaster jar of perfume was very expensive. Why would she pour such an expensive item on someone's feet? Can you imagine getting down on your knees and wiping someone's feet with your hair? What do you think motivated her to do such a normally degrading thing? **Simon, the Pharisee, didn't know what he didn't know.** What didn't he know (understand) what does that mean to you?

Prayer: *Father, forgive me when I think someone is beneath me or when I think I am better than someone else because of where they live, what they wear, or what type of job they have. Help me Lord to remember that you made everyone in your image and that we are all created equal. In Jesus' name. Amen*


Tuesday, July 13 – Read Mark 10:46-52

 This is the story of a blind man named Bartimaeus. If you are willing, put a blind fold on and try to do a few simple tasks. Without sight they aren't that simple, are they? Think about how this man must have felt sitting by the road each day begging. It would be very humiliating, right? If you have your sight, how often do you thank God for being able to see the natural beauty in and around Durango? Do you know any blind people or anyone who is losing their sight? Have you ever thought about ways you might be able to help or bless them? In verse 48 it says many tried to rebuke him (or keep him quiet). Why do you think that was? Interestingly, Jesus doesn't brush this man off but rather calls him over. What point do you think Jesus was making in doing this? Notice that Bartimaeus doesn't ask for a hand out, he simply asks to see, knowing that Jesus is the only person who can provide such a miracle. **Jesus knew what the others didn't know.** He knew this man wasn't looking for money or something that wouldn't last, rather that this man wanted his sight and had faith enough to see! Time and time again we see Jesus take time away from the masses to connect with Father in heart, soul, mind and strength. Today, I'd like to challenge you to give yourself some breathing space. Time to find peace amongst the chaos.

Prayer: *Dear Lord thank for letting me see all the magnificent objects of your creation! I confess though that sometimes I am blind. Open my eyes Lord that I might see others as you see them. Father, remind me that I should never try to keep others from you but rather I should be someone who brings them to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.*


Wednesday, July 14 – Read Matthew 9:9-13

(Message Notes and Meditation Moments for July 10-11, 2021 – For more, go to www.summitdurango.org)

 This is the story about Matthew the tax collector, who, interestingly, is the author of this gospel. How do you think most Americans feel about the IRS? Why so? In Jesus' day tax collectors were even more disliked than our IRS. The reason being that while these people, like Matthew, were Jewish, they not only collected the tax required by the Roman government from their fellow Jews, they added on a tidy sum to line their own pockets. Still, Jesus doesn't rebuke Matthew for this corrupt and unethical practice, instead he asks Mathew to follow him. Why do you think Matthew would leave his workplace and follow Jesus? Do you think he might have had a similar understanding of (although a different reaction to) Jesus as Peter did in Luke 5:8? The scripture goes on to tell us that Matthew invited Jesus and a bunch of his cronies (other "sinners") to dinner. While I'm guessing everyone was having a nice time at dinner, there are a group of individuals who were annoyed by what Jesus was doing. Who are they and why are they annoyed? It seems these Pharisees (the religious leaders) thought they were better than Matthew and his buddies, but **what does Jesus know that they don't know?** Based on what Jesus knows/says, it seems as though it is important to mingle with the unchurched, those who don't yet know Jesus. If you are spiritually "healthy" can you think of someone who is spiritually "sick" with whom you might share Jesus' message of salvation? Draw a picture of yourself. Notice how you speak to yourself while you draw the details of yourself. Draw upon your thought life and take note of how you speak to yourself in situations where you feel you fall short of expectations...your own or others. Beneath your self-portrait write: My Son/Daughter, chosen, marked by God's love, pride of His life.


Prayer: Father God, thank you for seeking the sick and the lost. I am so grateful to you, Lord, for allowing someone like me to follow you? May I never forget the wonderful gift of your grace. When I am with my unchurched friends, encourage me to remind them that they are loved by you exactly as they are and if they are "sick" you will joyfully heal them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, July 15 - Read Luke 7:1-10 – (A similar account is given in Matthew 8:5-13)

 This is a great story about the faith of a centurion soldier. To whom in our society might you compare a centurion? Why didn't the centurion want Jesus to come and personally heal his servant? Did you know that, in times of war, a US soldier can receive the death penalty for disobeying an order? It seems as though the men under the centurion's command were likewise required to obey orders. Jesus isn't a commander though. How is it that the centurion felt that all Jesus needed to do was say "the word" and his servant would be healed? In other words, **what did the centurion know that others didn't?** The centurion was a Roman Gentile, not a Jew. How might he have come to believe that Jesus could heal his servant? (We don't really know so just take a guess.) This is one of the few times in the gospels when Jesus actually seems surprised. What surprised him and why? It's funny, the learned Pharisees didn't recognize Jesus for who he was, but this Roman soldier did. What are your thoughts on this? "You are to love the Lord Yahweh, your God, with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, with every thought that is within you, and with all of your strength. This is the great and supreme commandment." Mark 12:30

Prayer: Dear Lord, we know that you often hide your truth from the wise and the learned but reveal your truth to those with a child-like faith. May I always have a faith that is child-like. May I rely less on my own knowledge and more on what your Spirit reveals to me. And may I never forget the simple truth of your amazing grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.


Friday, July 16 – Read John 8:1

 This story is about the woman caught in adultery. Once again, we see the Pharisees (that "holier than thou" group) trying to trick Jesus and present themselves as more righteous than the adulterous woman. Look at Leviticus 20:10 and/or Deuteronomy 20:20. This is the law to which the Pharisees are referring. Who is missing from the equation? Why do you think the man having the affair wasn't brought forth? (We don't know for sure, so there is no right or wrong answer.) Keep in mind, while the Old Testament laws were pretty extreme, God was trying to mold a righteous nation and wanted his people to understand that sin had consequences. For example, if you are aware of the breakup of a family, due to an extramarital affair, you can understand the hurt and heartache from which God was trying to protect his people. Read Isaiah 62:5. Do you see that God is the bridegroom, rejoicing over you (his bride)? God hates adultery and divorce because he wants you, his bride, to always be faithful to him, the holy and perfect bridegroom. This is the reason for making such strict penalties for infidelity. However, while Jesus agrees with the spirit of the law, it seems that he isn't willing to abide by the letter of the law, as noted in Romans 8:1-2 (which you should read) because **he knows what some of the others don't**. What can you conclude Jesus knew based on today's reading? Often, we are eager to point out the faults of others when we have failed to repent of our own sin. What does Matthew 7:1-5 say on this matter? What lessons will you take away from today's reading?

Prayer: Dear Lord, I am grateful that the laws you put in place are not to restrict me but to protect me (and others). Help me to understand that you did this out of your great love for me. Lord, may I be slow to pass judgement on others, especially since sin remains in my own life. Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me and love them as you love me, remembering always that it was while I was still a sinner you died for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, July 17 – Luke 23:32-43

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 I'm pretty sure you'll be familiar with this last story about the two criminals on the cross. Note that it takes place just before Jesus "breathes his last" but that Jesus was still willing to save anyone who came to him. At first it seems as though Jesus is asking God to forgive the two criminals, but for whom do you think he is actually asking forgiveness? What is the reason Jesus wants God to forgive them? As we see, one of the criminals hurls insults at Jesus. However, what is the reaction of the other criminal? What is it that **the second one seems to know that the first one doesn't**? What is it that **Jesus knows that no one else knows** (not even his disciples at this point, even though he told them)? What are your thoughts about someone giving a "death bed" confession and then their being entitled to eternal life? Because of this, some people say that they'll wait until they are older to become a Christian. What are the various problems with such a thought process? When do you think eternal life starts? When you accept Christ or when you die?

Prayer: *Dear Lord, I praise you for your willingness to forgive, no matter when we ask. I thank you for giving your life on the cross so that I could be forgiven. Lord, I am so glad to be able to have a relationship with you here and now and not have to struggle throughout this life without your love, comfort, peace and guidance. Please prompt anyone who is thinking of delaying the prospect of becoming a follower of you to act now, before it might be too late. In Jesus' name. Amen.*