

- Jesus didn't come to establish a religion for us but to distribute grace to us.
- 31"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. 32 I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent." Luke 5:31-32

4 He (Jesus) had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. 9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" John 4:4-9

16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. 17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" John 4:16-18

Guilt comes from without, shame comes from within.

Why we need to deal with our past:

- Jesus confronts our sin so He can heal us from it.
- 19 "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. John 4:19
- Refusing to deal with our past will rob us of God's future.
- ...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:13-14
- 25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us. 26 Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!" John 4:25-26
- 23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24
- Your past will be Satan's greatest weapon against you, or God's most powerful tool for
- ...the Accuser of our brothers has been thrown down from heaven onto earth—he accused them day and night before our God. Revelation 12:10

The battle for our healing is fought between two truths:

The truth about how I see myself, and the truth about how God sees me.

13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." 15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." John 4:13-15

Here is the great news:

We can either choose guilt or God's grace.

Choosing God's grace over our shame:

• We choose our **identity** with Jesus over our identity of **shame**.

Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy. 1 Peter 2:10 (NLT)

- We choose to **release** our past.
- Choose to share God's grace with others.

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him. John 4:28-30



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Ouestions that can be used in Connection Groups:

- These questions also work well for personal time with God.
- How does God's grace show itself most to you from the story of the Woman at the Well?
- In your own words, how has God's grace changed your life?
- Jesus addresses her sin to heal her, not humiliate her. How does Jesus address your sin?
- Why do many people continue to carry the shame of their past into the present?

• What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.

- How does avoiding our past keep us from experiencing God's future for our lives?
- How does Satan use our past against us? How does God use our past for His glory?
- Talk about the two truths involved in the battle for our healing.
- How do we choose our identity with Jesus over our identity of shame?
- How do we release our past?
- Is sharing the grace of God we have received a necessary choice?

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Opportunities to experience community:

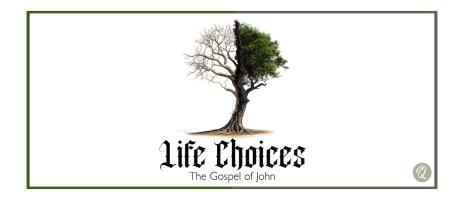








Today's Talk..



God's Grace and our Shame

