

## Disappointed

**Let us Pray:** May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, Our Rock and Our Redeemer.

**Amen**

As I tried to prepare to write the sermon for this Sunday, God sent me so many messengers. I ran into people from my past I haven't seen in years. I spoke to people I haven't had a chance to talk to from church since COVID began. I also had the message from the Gospel. Each conversation began with a catch up on our lives. Eventually each conversation turned to where God is moving us in our lives. They all stated in one way or another, "If more people believed in God there would be less hate and the world would be a better place." I probed deeper and asked what they meant and how God could help. That is why my sermon is titled, Disappointed. It emphasizes how important the message in this Gospel is and how relevant it's message remains to us. Three things were happening in this Gospel that are unusual for Jesus's time.

The First: Jews would never travel to Samaria. They were considered unacceptable and unclean.

Jesus was traveling from Judaea to Galilee. The area of the Samaria was not on their route. It was a long way out of their way. So it was not surprising that when Jesus arrives at Jacobs Well he is tired and very thirsty. He is not alone. He is accompanied by his disciples. They have left him and gone to find food. It is around noon, the hottest time of the day, and a Samaritan woman arrives to draw water. This is an unusual time to come, but perhaps she knew she would be all alone there. Most women would have come early in the morning or later in the evening when the sun is lower and the air may have been cooler.

The second thing that happens is that a man speaks to a woman. Jesus initiates a conversation. "Give me water." It is inappropriate for a man to

speak to a woman who is alone. It was at that time in history and in some cultures today.

Jesus asked the woman of Samaria for a drink. He has no way to get water from the well because it is very deep. She was taken aback that a Jew would ask her for water. He told her that if she knew who He was she would be asking for living water and she would never thirst again. She attempts to use the rules of society to say she is not worthy of this invitation for living water. If Jesus has such a thing as living water and she will never be thirsty again, please give it to her. She will never have to carry water from the well again.

The third thing that happens is Jesus tells her that he loves her. He tells her that he sees her for who she is.

He knows about her life. She is a sinner, and yet, He is telling her that he loves her. He is offering her the living water. He says to her, "I am the Messiah you have heard of, " I am He." ". You are looking for happiness in the wrong place. Go and get your family and the town people. They stayed for two days.

So, through these three things that happen in this Gospel, Jesus shows us what we need to do. Number one: We need to go out of our way to meet the children of God where they are. Number two : We need to listen to see where the children of God are in their lives and meet them there. Number three: We need to love these children and introduce them to the truth that is found worshipping our Father.

Jesus came to earth for us . We are all sinners and as we say saints too. Our sin brings hurt into our lives and at times we are hurt and broken by sins committed against us. Jesus came to us despite this. He came and lived among us and understands us. He died for us, one death for all our sins and who are we not to offer that same forgiveness to all the Samaritans that are in the world around us. You know of them. They are on every street corner, in every prison. Those addicted to drugs, alcohol, gambling. In every person that doesn't fit our mold, of what a man or a woman should be. In the person that doesn't agree with us politically, and I can go on and on. He came and told us to love one another.

I remember a long time ago in our church, when a person returned after a long absence they were greeted with, "Welcome back stranger" We never saw that person again. We changed the phrase to "Welcome Back, You have been missed." It was hard to change a habit.

Now today we are asked to change for other social norms so that we do not hurt children of God. We may be asked to call a person by a different name that they have chosen. A name that they feel better about being called. It may be a pronoun to do with sexuality. I have a hard time with this and try not to make mistakes. I made a mistake and hurt someone in our church and was disappointed in myself. We need to remember that we are all children of God and that he loves us all.

One of the old friends I spoke to wanted to show the love of God on his terms. He was willing to accept that Jesus would sit and have lunch with him but not the Homeless person on the corner. I asked him, Oh, you think you are more in need of what Jesus has to offer than the homeless person on the corner? He had to think for about a minute. Really! About a minute, and finally said, I can see what you mean. I was disappointed.

We often talk about being Christ in the world and showing his love. We pray about our desire to be "love in the world". Our best selves want to be love in the world. I notice many things about the love that my fellow Christian's profess to the world that I don't see in the love I believe is the Love that comes from knowing the true Jesus.

I see this from the world:

Let us be LOVE in in the world.

But not to everyone.

Let us be LOVE in the world.

But not right now.

Let us be LOVE in the world.

But only on our terms.

Let us be LOVE in the world.

But only if they show gratitude and shape up and do better.

Let us be LOVE in the world.  
But not if I have to do this or that.

Jesus did not keep his journey of love on an easy road. He would take his love to the people that were the outcasts, the needy, the underdogs, the sick and the poor. I would tell my Sunday school. Jesus would not be sitting here in our church at this table. He would not be here with us. I did not mean that he did not love us, because I know that he does. He has proven that love to me over and over. I am a sinner who has known his love and forgiveness. I would tell them, he has a better place to be, with people who really need him, in a place so dark we can never imagine.

Let us Pray:

Let us be LOVE in the world.

Let us be the hands of Christ.

Let us be the breath of the Spirit.

Let us be the LOVE of God here and now.

In dark places as well as pleasant places.

In good situations and in bad situations.

May our words be filled with love and not judgment.

May we listen with LOVE in our hearts to all of Gods Children.

Let us be LOVE in the World.

Amen