

For the ONE -The Outcast ONE

Introduction:

Some people live on the edge of community. They might be ostracized for something they said, did, or thought. Others live on the edge of community because they simply find it easier to live apart from the crowd. That's where we find "the one" today, living on the edge of community, outcast.

The woman at the well is trying to hide in broad daylight. Most respectable women would have gathered water in the cool of morning and with the company of the other women. But here she is alone at noon. We don't know if she was shunned by the others, or if a deep sense of shame kept her apart.

What we do know is that Jesus strikes up a conversation with the outcast. She's Samaritan; he's Jewish. She's a woman; he's a man. Jesus simply ignores the social norms and begins a life-changing conversation with the outcast. The presence of Jesus brings healing, hope, and a desire to invite others. At the end of the story, it is the outcast who encourages an entire village to believe in Jesus.

Read Your Bible

- John 4:1-42

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Where are the disciples, and what are they up to when Jesus and the woman have their initial conversation?
2. Does the woman truly understand Jesus' questions at first? Why or why not?
3. What did the woman leave behind in verse 28, and why is that significant?
4. What did the disciple return with from the village?
5. How does Jesus respond to what the disciples brought back?
6. What did the woman bring back to the well?
7. How have you experienced Jesus reaching out to you when you felt like an outcast?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Almighty God, thank you for your Son, Jesus who reaches the outcast. Thank you that he speaks words of grace and truth. Thank you that Jesus' words define us, save us, shape us and empower us. Give courage to our hearts to boldly share and invite others to experience the love of Jesus. Amen.