



Week 3 Shame

John 4:1-26

Starter

Did you ever hide something from your parents when you were younger? What was it? Did you ever get found out? How did it feel when you were found out?

The story of the woman at the well is full of different themes that could be studied. Today we are going to specifically cover the theme of shame. Jesus had just walked for two days and had stopped in a territory where Jews were not welcomed. It was the middle of the day as well. Anyone who has been to the Middle East knows that working hard in the middle of the day was not an optimal time. The timing of the woman's arrival at the well is important to our story. Do your best to put yourself in this story as someone who is observing from the side.

Read John 4:1-26

Before we get into some questions about this passage. Take a second to read the passage again to yourself. Underline or circle any word or phrases that stuck out to you.

What words or phrases stuck out to you in this passage? Why?

What significant thing does Jesus claim to have? What does it mean?

Put yourself in the place of the woman. How would you have felt with the direction of the conversation in verses 16-17? What does she do in response to his questioning?

Have you ever been ashamed of a certain part of your life? What did you do when someone exposed it?

When we encounter shame our instinct is hide-but hiding is not just a physical thing. What does the woman hide behind in this passage? What do you hide behind?

Does Jesus condemn the woman for her sins? What does he do in contrast?

How does this story speak to us about how we should handle our shame?

The reference to "living water" is mentioned many times in scripture. Read Psalm 42:1-2, Isaiah 55:1, Jeremiah 2:13, Jeremiah 17:3. Why is "living water" a strong counter argument to shame?