

John 4, Sharing our faith - Part 3: Inspiration

1. Jesus appears rude when he says 'give me a drink?' Does this fit with your perception of who Jesus is? Is this a reminder of his humanity or is there something else going on?
2. Jesus doesn't have a bucket and he wants a drink from hers even though that would make him ceremonially unclean under Jewish law.
 - a. What was he trying to show the woman through this?
 - b. What can we learn through this in terms of our beliefs around sin and holiness?
3. For many years, mainly male preachers have assumed that this was a promiscuous woman by her own choice. Beth reminded us that as a woman in that society that she would have had no rights to a choice. She would have been treated like property and would undoubtedly have been mistreated within these marriages. How does seeing this woman as a victim of abuse change our understanding of the passage? Does this help us to understand the way that the people from her village respond to her transformation following her meeting with Jesus, that she has moved from despair to a place of hope?
4. How can we try to be more aware of abuse and to watch out for the signs. If you knew someone who you suspected was being abused (physically or emotionally) what would you do?
5. The woman is very direct with Jesus and knows how to stand up for herself. This wouldn't have gone down well with a husband in that culture and may explain her multiple relationships as husbands were allowed to divorce their wives for any reason. How do we cope when we feel threatened or downtrodden?
6. The woman was very intelligent and had a good understanding of Jewish and Samaritan beliefs and knew how to apply her theological understanding to the conversation. At first glance she appears far from God but she was longing for the Messiah to come. Do you think we underestimate how much some non churchgoers might be interested in God and spiritual things?
7. Beth asked 'Did she have the nerve to look into Jesus' eyes?' Do we look into Jesus' eyes when we pray?
8. Who inspires you in your faith?
9. What conversations with people who aren't Christians yet have you had over the years that inspire you and remind you that people are seeking God?