

Jesus waits for us

(Some thoughts with Dr. Joel Crichlow)

In Revelation 3: 20 (NIV) Jesus says, *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”*

Jesus finds His way to our door. He knocks and waits for us to open.

An incident recorded in the gospel of John chapter four where Jesus met the Samaritan woman demonstrates how Jesus, in His love for us, tracks us and waits for us.

Jesus and His disciples were on their way from Judea heading north to Galilee. Between Judea and Galilee was the territory of Samaria. The Judean Jews did not associate with the Samaritans. Due to events in their history, the Samaritans were a people of mixed cultures with strong pagan influences in their religious practice. The pure Jews in Judea highly valued their worship of the one true God and in keeping with their religious observations did not mix with those considered to be outsiders.

Therefore a trek by a very religious Jew from Judea to Galilee would not normally pass through Samaria. It would be the much longer journey east of Samaria. However Jesus chose to pass through Samaria since, obviously, he had to converse with a Samaritan woman. The incident is recorded in John chapter 4.

John 4:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, *“Will you give me a drink?”* ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Jesus and His disciples had reached Jacob’s well in Sychar. The account indicates that Jesus was tired. Since it was a group of them walking and since we can assume that Jesus was not the oldest nor the least fit in the group, one could be justified in thinking that He was not the only one who was tired. Therefore since the others were able to make it to the town to buy food, then Jesus could have possibly accompanied them.

But Jesus chose to wait at the well. Why? I believe that He was expecting that Samaritan woman to turn up. He made sure to get there before her and wait for her. In the same way He gets to those places in our lives and waits for us.

Why did He wait for her? He wanted to give her the best gift that she could receive in this life. When the woman got to the well Jesus began a conversation with her by finding a common ground between them. She had come to draw water, He asked her for a drink.

John 4: 9 (NIV): *The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

She highlighted the difference between them. That difference was rooted in prejudices harbored between Jew and Samaritan. But Jesus was not captive to these prejudices. He came to all mankind, irrespective of who we are, what we possess, what we look like or what we have done.

John 4: 10-14 (NIV): *Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”*

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Jesus was waiting there at the well to offer this despised Samaritan woman the gift of eternal life. Jesus used the picture of refreshing, life-sustaining and life-giving water to represent God’s Holy Spirit, who we can all receive as the priceless gift who seals us as children of God forever. Our sincere belief in Him is the means by which we receive this gift.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV): *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.*

After we have believed and now that we have God’s Holy Spirit we are in the most privileged of positions. The Holy Spirit on behalf of God the Father and Jesus the Son now knocks at those inner doors of our soul, waits at every closed place of our personality until we open so that we can have communion and fellowship with him. (Revelation 3: 20)

It is a fellowship that helps us not to conform to the pattern of this world, but brings positive transformation and the renewal of our minds. It is a fellowship that brings the knowledge of God’s will.

Romans 12: 2 (NIV): *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

It is a fellowship that brings unexplainable peace, and so much more.

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV): *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

As the Apostle Paul prayed to God the Father in **Ephesians 3: 16-19 (NIV)**: *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

It is a fellowship that gives us the assurance that at every point in our lives (be it critical or considered trivial) Jesus is there waiting to meet the need of the moment. It may not be what we want but it will surely be what is best.

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV): ... God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."