Monday, March 16, 2020

Living the Word this week.....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

In the midst of turmoil and fear we have an opportunity to turn to God.  For some of us, maybe it is *returning to God....*.But He is where you want to be during these times, under the shadow of His wings -- Psalm 91:4.  My prescription for the coronavirus?  Pray this verse as the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night.  You will be receiving an update form our Church Council this evening concerning how our church family will be handling the logistics of this crisis.

Now let's get back to "Living the Word this week"....

1.  Please pray first then reread John 4: 5-42.

2.  For those new to the faith, there was great enmity between the Samaritans and Jews in Jesus' time.  Although they were from the same "stock" (Abraham) they had a long history of conflict and "tribal hatred".  I didn't note this Sunday, but think of how it turned things upside down when Jesus made the Good SAMARITAN the hero of one of His most famous teachings:).  So in our text today He violates cultural protocol by first of all speaking to a Samaritan and secondly a woman (men didn't address women in public in those days, unless immediate family).  That's what Jesus does:  He breaks down human barriers to reach people -- that includes you and me. That is what we are called to do as well!

3.  The woman came to the well at high noon, the heat of the day, when no one else would be there so as to not have to interact.   She was hiding, really.  Her life was a mess and in a small town, you can only imagine the heat she took.  BUT Jesus is there waiting for her.  No accident here!  Just as Jesus is waiting for you and me, when our lives get messed up in any way, He is waiting to be there for us.

4.  At first the woman avoids Jesus by going off on tangents (just like Nicodemus did in last weeks text).  Jesus will not be deterred -- He's laser focused on reaching this woman.  He "cuts to the chase" in vs. 16.  Again she tries to "hide" by changing the subject.  But no luck.  After she admits the Messiah "will know all things", vs.25.  Jesus reveals Himself to her as the Messiah  -- HER Messiah and Saviour. Vs26.

5.  She runs to town, to share with those whom she had been avoiding, the GOOD NEWS of the Messiah.  Let's do the same!.

6.  This week,  open your heart and needs to  Jesus -- NO NEED TO HIDE!  He wants you, forgives you, seeks you out, because he LOVES you.  He paid the price for you and your sins.  Go to Him!!  Think of the things/guilts/regrets that may be keeping you from Him.   Lay it down.  Lay it all aside, GO TO HIM.

Announcements:  (in addition to Church Council coronavirus updates):

If you or anyone else you know is ready for Baptism, both adults and children, March 29th will be Baptism Sunday!  Just contact me.

Our "facebook family" is off and running with 56 sermon views the first week -- "like" our facebook and let those concerned about coming to worship (wherever they are) know they can view the sermon on our page.

God willing -- see you Sunday and Wednesdays for Lenten Worship.

May the Lord bless and keep you, your families, and our nation and its leaders during these challenging days.

Pastor