

“Finding Your Place”
October 21, 2012

John 4

PROP- Jesus knows His place—who He is and where He’s going. He’s bringing us into that place, too. “That you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3).

1. AN ESTABLISHED PLACE.

(v. 1-3) Religious spirit pressured Him to perform. (via competition).
(NOTE: Pharisees kept score...Jesus didn’t- “Hey, we got more than John”)

- In Garden, Adam & Eve tempted to perform for what they already had
- In wilderness, Jesus tempted to perform for what He already had...via questioning His identity (“*IF you are the Son...*”)
- Galatians 3:10- Every time you perform for what you already have—you are “under a curse” (*striving to earn something in the land of endless denial; religion is never satisfied; no matter what you do—“never enough”!*)
- “When He (Jesus) learned of this, He left”- refused to be displaced!
- 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3- So “established” in your faith, you can’t be “moved” (*the wagging of a tail*) by “tribulation” (*outside pressures*)
(NOTE: We can’t control what happens TO us—but we can control what happens IN us; our life is the sum total of decisions WE have made; we are not VICTIMS)

2. A PURPOSE-FILLED PLACE

(v. 4) “Jesus had to go through Samaria” (Lit.- compelled; singular purpose)

“Christ’s love compels us...He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14,15)

- Anything but passive, depressed, despondent...
- His people will be “spontaneously willing in the day of His power” (Psalm 110:3)
- “Instant” (fully present) “in season, out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2)
- “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41)
- (NOTE: “Soul-led” people want God on their terms—“Spirit-led” want what He desires!)

3. A LIFE-GIVING PLACE

(v. 6-10) Jesus introduces Himself as “the gift of God” ...going to great lengths to “give life” to this woman. Willing to be...

- Inconvenienced- “The sixth hour”—noon; most uncomfortable time of the day—yet a *kairos* moment...He is setting them up all the time. As the “Lord of the harvest”—He is readying the field—“they are ripe” (John 4:35)
- Unconventional- A Samaritan (“untouchable” to the Jews) AND “a woman” (violated even Samaritan taboos). Breaks through the enemy’s scheme to “divide & conquer.”

He did not come to “be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45). “Just ask Me—and I will give you water. It will flow through you causing you to be ‘fully alive!’ That’s why it’s called ‘living water.’”

As “new creations”—He sets us in a new place where “we no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view” (2 Corinthians 5:16)

RESPONSE

THIS PLACE is your IDENTITY “IN CHRIST”!

From this place you are DESTINED to:

- “Make the most of EVERY KAIROS OPPORTUNITY”—moments pregnant with life-giving opportunity. So much so—the enemy is “filled with fury” (i.e., snorting mad; frustrated; because he can’t do anything about it). Why? “His time is short” (Lit.- he has a “puny amount” of “kairos moments” because they have been seized by the followers of Jesus!)
- We will do this FEARLESSLY. Jesus has come “to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.” (Luke 1:74)
Paul: “Pray for me...that words may be given me...and that I may declare them fearlessly, as I should” (Ephesians 6:20)