

“Oh, the Places You’ll Go...”
November 11, 2012

John 4:1-35

PROP- Displaced people find their place in Jesus. And as they encounter Him—they discover a place of receiving life and releasing life.

1. RECEIVING LIFE

As this woman realized that the One who knew her the best—loved her the most—the atmosphere of her life changed:

- No longer sulking and hiding, she sprang into action**
- The hurtful words of others (even the disciples) did not hold her back**
- The fear of those who had continually rejected her (i.e., the Jews, the 5 previous husbands, the women of the town) no longer displaced her—in fact, she ran right to them!**

“Leaving her water jar” (v. 28)- prophetic act—she had found a new life source! She left her old way of life!

Jesus has this effect on people!

(Fishermen, a tax collector, and a political activist all left their professions; prostitutes walked away from their pasts)

The people of this town and the scorn of Jesus’ disciples could not hold her back because prisons are internal.

- Joseph turned a prison into a ministry center**
- Paul and Silas turned a “hole in the wall” prison into a “holy place”**
- Yet, many of Israel’s kings turned palaces into prisons—dungeons of idolatry**

NOTE: “Free indeed” (John 8:36)—thoroughly, completely; at the root

From this place of newfound freedom, she sprang into...

2. RELEASING LIFE

Helen of Troy may be the “face that launched a thousand ships”—but Jesus is the One who launches millions of lives!

(v. 29) She shared what she was discovering about Jesus—though she still had questions. She didn’t wait till she had all the answers. She gave them what she had—an invitation to meet the One who was touching her heart.

(v. 34) Ministering to others is “food.”

- It invigorates us
- Sustains us with meaning and purpose
- The opposite is true—locked within ourselves we lose direction & focus...filled with a lethargy that leads to depression

“To do”—My daily focus (Luke 2:49- (KJV) At age 12: “I must be (all) about My Father’s business”)

- Psalm 110:3- “Spontaneously willing”
- Revelation 19:7- “Ready”—“*prepared and poised for action*”
- Revelation 22:17- “The Spirit AND the bride” calling people to drink living water

“And to finish His work”—finish well

- “It is finished” (John 19:30)
- “I have finished (my) race” (2 Timothy 4:7)

RESPONSE

Jesus is the ultimate picture of a life fulfilled—accomplishing much...while at rest in His soul.

He said to this woman- “I invite you into this place where you will drink deeply of My living water—and at the same time—serving as a well to thirsty people (v. 14).

He says to us: “Join Me in this place. Enjoy My overwhelming reception. Watch your life come forth in unhindered expression!”