



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Feb 11, 2024
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Face the Facts

Text: John 4:15-26

Target: We will never know the rescue of a Savior if we don't think we need one.

- I. **Confession of Confusion:** *"The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be **thirsty** or have to come **here** to draw water." (Vs. 15)*
 - A. **Something's Missing:** *"thirsty" (Vs. 15)*
 - B. **Something's Lacking:** *"here" (Vs. 15)*

Key Concept: We all go to a WELL to find satisfaction. **Question: Which one?**

Question #1: *Since beginning this discussion last week, have you identified any areas of your life where you've felt an emptiness or dissatisfaction? Can you recognize a particular "well" you often seek to find satisfaction in? Have you managed to take steps away from these superficial sources and find satisfaction in your relationship with God? If not, what actions could you take this week to make progress in this direction?*

Question #2: Although spending time in Scripture remains our primary means of finding satisfaction in God, each of us approaches and spends time with God's Word in a unique way. **Share with the group** how your approach to spending time in God's Word has developed over the years and what it looks like today. *How would you encourage someone to find a rhythm that helps them stay consistent in their reading? What other practices have you found in addition to Scripture that help you hear from and speak to God (prayer walks, journaling, stillness, etc.)?*

- II. **Confronted by your own Condition:** *"Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." (Vs. 16)*
 - A. **Speaks to the Past:** *"The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband; for you have **had five** husbands," (Vs. 17-18a)*
 - B. **Speaks to the Present:** *"and the one you **now** have is not your husband. What you have said is true." (Vs. 18b)*

- C. **Speaks to the Future:** “The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a **prophet.**” (Vs. 19)

Key Concept: You will never know a need for Savior, without first recognizing your own sinful nature. **Question: What do you think it takes to go to heaven?**

Question #3: Discuss the question above. What do you think it takes to go to Heaven? How has your understanding of salvation become clearer over time? What common misconceptions of salvation do you see in our culture today? What are some obstacles you think stand in the way of a person coming to Christ?

- III. **Compliance to the Commandments:** “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” (Vs. 20)
- A. **Lifestyle NOT a Location:** “Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, **the hour is coming** when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.” (Vs. 21)
 - B. **Relationship NOT Religion:** “**You worship what you do not know;** we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” (Vs. 22)
 - C. **Truth & Transformation:** “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in **spirit and truth.**” (Vs. 24)

Key Concept: Religion is the effort of humanity to earn heaven. **Question: How do you know if you're good enough?**

Question #4: Why is the understanding of an ongoing relationship with Jesus and a lifestyle as His followers so important to separate from a one-time “decision” to believe in Jesus? What dangers exist in viewing our faith as a one-time decision?

- IV. **Confession of Clarification:** “The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (**he who is called Christ**). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” (Vs. 25)
- A. **Faith in a Savior:** “when he comes” (Vs. 25)
 - B. **Face to Face with the Savior:** “Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” (Vs. 26)
 - 1. **I AM:** (7x in John)
 - 2. **I AM HIM:** “he who is called the Christ” (Vs. 25)

Take Away: You don't earn heaven, you are graced heaven through Jesus alone. **Have you ever trusted Christ as Savior?**

Question #5: How can we deepen our faith and trust in Christ as our Savior on a daily basis? What specific worries, struggles, or “wells” do you currently need to trust Jesus with? How will you give those to him, and how can we as a group help in that?