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Preaching: Rev. Eunbae Doh

John 4:5-42

“I Know You”

Give me a drink!

This is what Jesus said to a woman. Yes, you might ask or hear this request so many times in your own life, at home, school, or restaurant. But there are some situations that are turning to be a bad idea to ask this kind of request.

Jesus was asking water in a bad situation. Let me tell you why.

Jesus was on his way from Judea to Galilee and he had to pass through Samaria in route. He stopped by Jacob's well in the heat of the day for some refreshing water; there he encountered a woman who had come with her water jar to draw water from the well. Jesus does the unthinkable! He speaks to her and asks her for a drink.

“Give me a drink”

What a moment it must have been!

She was a Samaritan. He was a Jew. She was a woman. He was a man. It was a highly public place. Jesus, as usual, was "inviting trouble" in his typical unconventional attitude and behavior. He should not be speaking to a woman in the first place. People we think we have all figured out don't act that way and things we never expect to happen do.

Asking her for a drink of water was nothing short of scandalous.

So she asked Jesus what was up.

“You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”

Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’

Now the woman was really getting confused. The woman tried to deflect her uneasiness by saying to Jesus that there was no way he could draw water for her- not that she'd asked, of course-because he had no vessel with which to draw the water and the well was deep.

Jesus now promised her that the water he could provide for her was water from which springs eternal life-water that will quench her thirst forever.

Now he was going to take things a step further. He said to the woman, "Go get your husband and the two of you come back here."

How rude!!

Jesus was a big trouble maker. He was not supposed to approach this woman. And now he made a huge mistake again. How could a man ask this kind of question to a woman he met the first time? There are some questions which man should not ask a woman on the first encounter.

Let me say something about it. I tried to find some clues on the internet about what kind of question a man should not ask a woman. I got very helpful advice on a dating site.

1. The most important question that adult males should not ask a women on a first date is their age. Most women do not like being asked this question, especially more mature women, if it is a younger woman in her early ages she might not be as offended as an older woman. But it is best to avoid this question all together.
2. Never ask a woman on a first date about her weight. This is almost as bad as asking her age. Women do not like to speak openly about their weight. After all you can always guess her weight by looking at her.

You know what? This is not just a matter for woman. You should not ask someone’s weight especially those who have no confidence of their weight. So, I really appreciate that you are not asking me my weight.

3. You should also not ask a woman what her income is. This question should not be asked on a first date or any other date for that matter. Both adult males and women do not like being asked about their financial status.

4. The final question that you should not ask is how many spouses they have had before. This is an absolutely no, no question, to inquire a woman.

Look at him! Jesus! He made that mistake!
He said, “Bring your husband!”

Do you think that Jesus was very rude and harsh or made a big mistake?
Was it really what Jesus was trying to do to this poor woman? Mocking scorning...

No! Jesus was trying to give a message that I know you. I know who you are.

This woman told Jesus, “I have no husband.” It’s true. It was not lying. But it might be an attempt to hide her identity. “What? Bring my husband? Don’t jump to conclusions. What do you know about me? I have no husband.

And Jesus said, “You are right. You have no husband; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband.”

Jesus knew everything. Jesus knew who she was, what she did. Jesus was trying to say that I know you; I know your pain, wounds, and sorrows. I know your thirst. I know why you came here in the heat of the day to draw water keeping away from others.

“I know you.”

Yes, Jesus knows me. He knows you. This is a very important message. When we hear this message that God knows us, we might have two different feelings. When we hear this message, we can react to this message in totally different ways.

Let me read Psalm 139

***O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,***

*O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.*

*Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

What do you feel?

You might have had two different feelings.

First, this message gives us great comfort and hope. God knows you and me best. God knows everything. God knows our suffering, agony, and pain. He will comfort us. He will take care of us. He will guide us. He will not forsake us.

But at the same time, this message can make us uncomfortable because sometimes we don't want someone knows who we are. We don't want to reveal our weaknesses and faults or shame to others. It will be really horrible if someone knows everything about us even Mom and Dad, friend, even husband and wife whoever it is.

God doesn't want us to be embarrassed. God doesn't want to make us uncomfortable or unhappy. But it is also true that God wants us to be embarrassed with our sins. God wants us to be uncomfortable with our sinful behavior because he wants to save us, because God wants us to be clean from our sins, because God wants us to be reconciled with him. God knows us. God remembers who we are, what we did, God remembers our sins, because He loves us and want save us.

Now here is good news.

Hebrew 10:17

I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.

God promised that he will not remember our sins anymore.

If you receive the Gospel and believe in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for your sin, you are clean. God will not remember anything of your sins. You don't have any bad credit, bad record. You are clean. You are a new creature.

If you do not accept this Gospel, you will have no peace.

If you do not encounter Jesus who knows everything about you at the well of your life, your thirst will not be quenched.

Jesus wants to give us the living water, forgiveness and salvation.

It is a free, free gift. But no one can buy or sell the living water. This free gift only comes from God.

Jesus offers us the living water as a free gift for all of us, all human.

Jesus invites us to come and drink this living water.

In the beautiful poetry of the Hebrew prophet Isaiah (55:1–3), God welcomes every person, rich or poor, to drink deeply of what He alone can give us and what all that our culture offers — money, jobs, credit cards, the best university degree, or great diet — can never satisfy.

*Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
hear me, that your soul may live.*