

Week Two: True Satisfaction

John 4:4-14

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Have you ever been on the “outside looking in,” excluded from a certain group or level of activity? When was that? Why do you think you still remember it?
2. How did you handle it? Were you resentful and discouraged or did it motivate you to gain acceptance?
3. Read John 4:4-15. This woman was drawing water in the middle of the day to avoid running into others. Why did she feel so isolated?
4. Do you think it matters if your actions have led to your isolation, or if others have rejected you for no reason? Apart from being God who knows all things, what experiences did Jesus encounter to help Him empathize with this woman?
5. Do you think this woman had “settled” for a lesser life? What do you think causes a person to throw in the towel and quit trying?
6. Some people respond to rejection by forming new relationships with others who have also suffered rejection or who have values similar to their own. Which do you think is more important – the quality of the relationship or the status of those in the relationship? Explain.
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for people like this woman who feel judged for their mistakes.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. In your opinion, what is required for a person to feel valued and fulfilled in life?
9. Bob Buford, a successful man who refused to settle for mere success, wrote the book *Halftime*. He wanted to be significant. What makes a person significant?
10. Jesus’ disciples lived under the social standards of their day. They were not permitted to talk to women, and only gentiles under certain conditions. Jesus refused to abide by rules made by men and not by God. Do you think that is still an issue in today’s culture?
11. Quickly read Acts 6:14; 15:1; 21:21. What changes did Jewish leaders believe faith would cause? Were they right?

12. What is the difference between religion and true faith? Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:8-9, and 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. Is it possible that some of the most dedicated and religious people in our churches have exchanged rules for faith without knowing it? Where does that lead?
13. Read John 10:10. What did Jesus say He came to bring? Consider the advice of 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What is true life?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to know the difference between true faith and mere religion. Pray to be gracious towards those who have mistaken the two as the same thing.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Read the words of Jesus in John 4:10. What did Jesus say He was capable of giving to this sinful woman?
16. The human body can survive nearly a month without food, but less than a week without water. Water is essential to life. Is Jesus essential to life that is truly life? Explain.
17. Read Revelation 7:17; 21:1-17. What do these passages suggest is the key to eternal life in heaven? What is the connection between Jesus and the source of life in these passages? What is the intended significance?
18. What is the significance of Jesus offering this gift to such a known sinner? See 1 Timothy 1:15-16 for insight.
19. Did the Jewish leaders offer this same life to the people? Did the disciples? Is this something that only God can do, or can God use people to give the gift of life to people?
20. Read Matthew 23:1-4. What is the danger of making a relationship with God about obedience and rules? Is your pastor more often criticized for not condemning sin and teaching obedience, or for being too demanding? See how Paul described the balance in Ephesians 4:15-16. How would you describe the relationship between truth and love?
21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for your pastor and all Christian leaders that they might be a source of living water to thirsty sinners.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. Do you think most people consider regular church attendance a duty or a privilege? Explain.
23. What could the church do better to become a life-giving refreshment to people rather than the sacred obligation that many perceive?

24. Is it basic human nature to want rules, or to live motivated by love for God and the love for others? Why might rules be easier?
25. Read Luke 6:38. That seems like a trick to get people to give more and do more. What do you think?
26. Look again at John 4:4-14. This woman was a gentile, Jesus was a Jew, and there are others of various faiths living all around us. Is there anything about Christianity that distinguishes it from all other well-meaning religions?
27. Do you believe that there are only two religions in the world; those that teach you what you must do to please God and the Christian faith that teaches us what God has done to make us pleasing? Explain the concept of grace.
28. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to be a reflection of God's love in words and actions towards others.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. What brings you the greatest satisfaction in life? Why?
30. How is that activity different or similar to the values and actions that Jesus demonstrated in His life?
31. Do you feel your life is important? Are you making a difference in ways that matter? Why or why not?
32. What could you change or begin doing that might increase your sense of personal significance?
33. Do you think most people equate doing “big stuff” with doing “important stuff”? Is achieving a big goal more or less important than helping a single person in God's sight?
34. Read John 5:23. What do you think Jesus meant by this summary statement?
35. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for your church and for your friends who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Savior to see Him as the gracious giver of life this woman came to understand.