

Jesus Waits

Using a white board or chalk board, have a discussion about what keeps us from truly connecting in prayer with God. People will say all sorts of things like too busy, shame, guilt, making other things more important, etc... After this discussion, share these thoughts:

John 4 (NIV)

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

He is Close To Each One of Us

How close are you to Jesus? How close is He to you? This woman was carrying out her common task...filling a bucket with water. But she was at the well at an unusual time to be at a well. Yet Jesus knew this and sat down and waited. He waited for her. He met her going about her daily tasks right where she was in the depths of her shame and sin, scurrying about with all she had to get done.

And Jesus was close to her. Jesus was just there, waiting for her – just as He is close to you and I, in all the chores and duties that fill each minute and hour of our lives. He is waiting right where you are and will be, in the depths of our shame that keeps us from reaching out to him; whatever that shame may be. We have called it a lack of time, a shame of putting other things first, feeling unworthy, and all sorts of other things.

He Does Not Sit and Wait. He Seeks Us first.

Matthew 18:12 (NIV)

¹²“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?”

We just confessed that we wander off. We let so many internal and external battles keep us from connecting to our God, the lover of our souls.

This woman went on a little local errand to draw water from a public place, but before she returned, she had met Jesus and had been refreshed. Before she went home, Jesus met her at the very point of her deepest soul need. She wasn't openly seeking Him – except as in the unsatisfied yearning of every human heart, and yet He waits for her to come to Him – **He waits to meet her deepest need before she ever realized her need.** And He waits in all circumstances of life to meet the deepest longings of our heart, too.

And how are we in luck!?! This is our Savior whom we already know, and worship, and love!

But it Doesn't Stop There...He knocks!

As we flap and worry and fret and concern ourselves with accumulating difficulties...Jesus knocks. He waits for us to remember to let Him in to conquer and lead us through these troubles. As we plan strategies to meet all the heavy burdens that cause so many heartaches...Jesus knocks and waits. He waits for us to turn to Him in our planning, in our fretting, our worrying. As we desperately try to determine how to cope with life's mounting troubles, as we look for any form or escape from the downward spiral of the world's affairs, Jesus frantically knocks and waits for us to open the door. Desperate to share His answers to all of it! *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.* [Rev.3.20](#)

Over 500 times scripture tells us to pray or speaks of prayer. Christ prayed to keep that connection with His Father and asks us to do the same. He calls us friend, yet if we do not stay connected with our friend, we grow distant. He tells us to:

[Philippians 4:6](#) - Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

[1 Thessalonians 5:17](#) - Pray without ceasing.

[Matthew 26:41](#) - Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

[Jeremiah 33:3](#) - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Activity

(Play peaceful, instrumental music such as hymns played by piano, violin, or orchestra).

Have blank signs prepared for each table that has a rope around it for people to hang the sign around their neck. Invite them to write on the sign one of the hindrances that keeps us from true connection to God in prayer. It does not have to be their personal struggle but that would have more of an impact.

“Place this burden around your neck. How do you feel with this burden around your neck? Is it holding you back from reaching to Him? If you will, please close your eyes and assume a posture of prayer with me now.”

Have a man, as Jesus, pray John 17 taking each sign off of each person as he prays.

“As the music plays, spend some time in connection with the Savior who prays over you. Leave your concerns, worries, and whatever keeps you from true connection with Him at His feet. After a season of intimate prayer I will have a closing prayer.”