

Christ - "Let me drink"

John 4:1-13

1. IT'S NOT ABOUT BOUNDARIES, IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE

This story breaks through the boundaries.

Jesus enters "enemy territory." Jews simply did not go to Samaria - even though they were ethnically and religiously close enough to the Samaritans. They were greatly despised by the Jews. They said, "WE Jews have the right faith! THEY DON'T, they are not the true believers!"

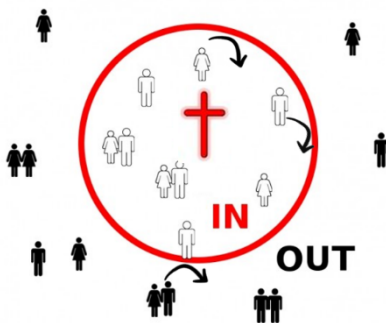
But not only that, Jesus is talking to a woman! He even asks her to give him a drink. In addition to exposing himself to ritual impurity, Jesus could also get into a rumor, damaging his reputation. All the more so when it gradually comes out that he is talking to a woman who is already living with a sixth man, and he isn't her husband.

So Jesus, in one trip, shattered the established boundaries of geography, ethnicity, religion, gender and morality! He did it to make a point! Jesus is different from us. He brings a completely different perspective on life. He is a God who grabs you by the heart because: **Jesus is not about boundaries (rules), but about people!**

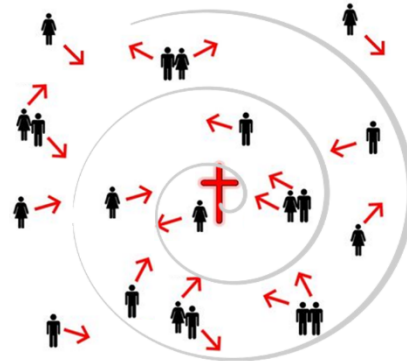
He's all about you. Jesus cares about people. He's interested in you. He longs for you. And he's willing to cross the boundaries for you. He puts no barrier, no condition that should keep people from coming to Him - except a desire/thirst - to come to Him.

1. IT IS NOT ABOUT THE BOUNDARIES, BUT ABOUT JESUS

a church determined by the boundaries



a church determined by the center (Jesus)



In a church defined by boundaries, it is very clear who is in and who is out. Who are WE and who are THEY. What is right and what is wrong. If you are fortunate enough to be able to meet all the expectations of such a church - you have a very nice sense of satisfaction (no need to move anywhere) and we have a sense of security (change is not welcome). It's worse for those who are OUT. They feel like second class and getting in is extremely difficult for them.

When Christ begins to disappear from such a church, the response is simple - Let's fix the boundaries!!! A community defined by boundaries ultimately has a soft core and a hard shell. People end up not so much concerned with what they are passionate about, but whether they are still being led to the boundaries.

In a church defined by the center (Christ) - it's more complicated. It's a much harder and less safe path (I would almost say a narrow path). Because it doesn't matter exactly where you are - it matters much more which direction you are moving!!! But the attractive thing about such a community is that everyone can make the journey inward - to Christ. In such a community, no one judges me, but welcomes me and

supports me on my inward journey, because in such a community every person who wants to come to Christ matters. Passion and desire for Christ are crucial. Everyone, wherever they are, can draw closer to Christ or move away from Him. A community determined by the center has a hard core and a soft shell. As a church, we want to work like this. But what happens when Christ begins to disappear? We either tip over into a community defined by boundaries, or we lose our orientation, direction, and reason for being. THAT is why we must confess - We are totally DEPENDENT on Christ.

We are not supposed to care about boundaries, but we must care about Christ!

2. WHY DON'T I WANT A MODEL WHERE THE CHURCH IS DEFINED BY BOUNDARIES?

The model of the boundaries devastated the Samaritan woman. We clearly feel that the boundaries have failed to help this woman. It has failed to bring her any hope, any salvation. Yet she so desperately needed a Savior - the Messiah (Christ). Borders fail to start real change. They can't really get us in. Only the drawing power of Christ can do that (and I firmly believe that power is love - John 3:16).

Only when we come to Christ and surrender to Him will His divine healing and transforming power awaken in us. THEREFORE we must confess - We are COMPLETELY DEPENDENT on Christ. We stand and fall with the place we each give Him in our lives personally and as a church.

3. LETS DRINK - NO ONE ELSE WILL DO IT FOR YOU

There is another huge difference between a life defined by boundaries and Christ. Not only do we draw from a different source, but the effects are different as well. Keeping boundaries without a personal experience with Christ is a daily struggle. It's like treating the symptoms, not the cause of the disease. You have to suppress them every day. It's exhausting, it takes a lot of strength, and we often solve it by pushing the boundaries so they're not so strict. The thirst keeps coming back and it's not quenchable.

But Christ offers more than just the suppression of our sins - He heals the reason - **the absence of God** - in such a way that He not only quenches our thirst, but even says that : " He who drinks . . becomes a spring springing up to eternal life".

So DRINK!!!! No one else will do it for you! So there are three things you can do to be connected.

COME - Go to Christ and tell Him everything - a sincere confessing prayer, give Him time to be with you and pour out your heart to Him.

ACCEPT - Believe and remind yourself daily of what He has done for you: "You are worth His own blood to Him. That's how much He loves and accepts you - praise and thanksgiving every day.

CHOOSE - Give Him a decisive influence in your life - get to know who He is, how He thinks, feels and acts (He inspires, motivates and charges) - and act on His example.

4. REFLECT

Think of 1-3 important moments that are coming up next week or not coming up, but should not be missed in your life.

Pray and ask how you can act in them not according to boundaries (YES/NO) but according to the principle of "what brings me closer to Christ"?

What resources does Jesus offer you for these situations and how can you practically apply them?

Is there someone with whom you can share this and who can support you in this?

Find at least 1 such thing every other week.