

“Mixing It Up” & “To Be Known Is To Be Loved” (Part 6&7 in the “Just Walk Across the Room” sermon series)

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Sunday, October 7 & 14, 2007

Scripture: John 4: 1-42

From Bill Hybel’s book, “Just Walk Across the Room”.

1. Like the woman at the well, have you ever felt dusty, weary, and worn down by life? What experiences come to mind?
2. Jesus’ response to the woman at the well was acceptance rather than condemnation and forgiveness rather than rebuke. How have you experienced God’s acceptance and forgiveness in your own life? In what ways can we learn from this so when we “walk across the room” we will not show judgment?
3. In this passage the Samaritan woman calls attention to the cultural snobbery that the Jews had shown towards Samaritans. Notice that Jesus doesn’t respond to her complaint at all. Instead, he suggests that He has a gift to give her. Here’s an important point in the Christian’s task of sharing their faith. *Don’t respond quickly to attacks.*
  - a. How does Jesus deflect her complaint?
  - b. When you get negative responses from co-workers or family, do you have the wherewithal *not* to respond?
  - c. How can we keep centered to be able to reach people despite negative responses we may encounter?
4. One lesson from the scripture is that as Christ-followers, we should be in the business of bridging chasms. Jesus crosses into the Samaritan women’s world and risks his entire reputation to talk with her.
  - a. As you assess your own friendships patterns, whom do you typically reach out to?
  - b. Why do you think Christ encourages his followers to be radically accepting of *all* people?
  - c. God has not called us to be separate from the world, but to be a part of it and bring change to it. Where are you encountering the world?
  - d. What are you willing to risk to bring God’s grace and love to a person in need of it?
5. Many third world countries like Senegal in Africa have disease born water. Clean water can transform communities and essentially transform people’s lives. Jesus uses the metaphor of water to illustrate this kind of transformation. His living water brings new life, better life, joyful life and eternal life.
  - a. Jesus talks about this kind of water in Psalm 42: 1. Meditate over this Psalm. Pray over the areas of your life in need of refreshment and/or restoration. Pray as you feel led for those in your life who are thirsty and in need of the living water Jesus offers.

