

No Longer Strangers: When Love Comes to Town

4/5/15 – Easter Sunday

I. Introduction

A. Everything changes when love comes to town!

II. Restoring Key Relationships

A. Man/ Woman with God

John 4:20-25

20 Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you (Jews) say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.

1. *Matthew 12:15-16*

Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all 16 and ordered them not to make him known.

2. *Matthew 16:20*

Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one

3. *Mark 1:3-4*

And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons to speak, because they knew him.

4. Jesus reveals Himself as Messiah to an unlikely candidate.

B. Man/Woman with Self

John 4:16,17-19

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “ I have no husband”; 18 For you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” 19 The woman said to him.” Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”

1. *John 4:28-29*

So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.”

2. Jesus knows you better than you know yourself. In that knowledge He doesn't seek to condemn, but release.

C. Man/Woman with Humanity

John 4:3-5

He left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

1. As followers of Jesus, we do not have the right to value one person or race while devaluing another.

D. Man/ Woman with Creation

Romans 8:19-21

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption...

III. Conclusion

A. John 5:14

The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

B. Prayer

God:

Meet us at the wells, where we are lonely
Where we are forgotten, where we are hurt by others
and give us a drink of the grace that brings life again.

God:

Speak to us in the trysting places, where the sinners gather
where the prejudices are made known
where our histories are broadcast
and give us to drink of the forgiveness that brings peace again.

God:

Renew all that we are and have been, fill us with a new future
Inspire us with recreation, pull us into resurrection
and give us to drink, from the promise of heaven.