

Harringay United Church 21 June 2009

Introduction: Happy father's day!

Show Film: 5mins with subtitles & voice-overs

ALL'S NOT WELL AT JACOB'S WELL John 4:7-26

All is not well at Jacob's well: It's a hot afternoon and Jesus whose popularity was growing fast "as the new man of God in town" breaking the "rules"

1. It was not a man's job to fetch water, what on earth was He doing, sitting by the well?
2. He is a Jew, a Rabbi, talking to a Samaritan woman, a woman perhaps had several lady enemies in town- whose husbands she's taken
3. He makes to "the woman" asking for a drink (**verse 7-8**) :
 - But here is the Good news: Jesus ministered from a "Father heart" and not by "rules"

Point 1: It is not well at Jacob's well because there is thirst that physical water cannot quench: Thirst defines this encounter. Jesus asks for a drink to perhaps cool Himself (verse 7**) but he had no container & the bible doesn't say he later drunk. But, He also sees the deep spiritual thirst in this woman;**

- thirst for freedom,
- thirst for fulfilment,
- thirst for Acceptance

In the film, For Stidia, water is the Story at first glance, but on closer look, it's actually about

- Living in Safety
- Finding Hope
- A pathway to a different future

A father heart looks for the need of the heart and not just physical satisfaction

Point 2: All is not well at Jacob's well because: right there in the heart of the community were very serious divides and barriers:

- **Racial**, Samaritans and Jews
- **Religious, worshipping in different places:** Mount Zion in Jerusalem for the Jews and Mount Gerizim for the Samaritans
- **Gender Barriers**-Men and Women

Some History:

Samaritans were looked down upon by the Jews. Yet both were descended from Jacob, at whose well Jesus and this woman stood.

Samaritans traced their lineage to the Israelites who were left behind in the region of Samaria after the Assyrians removed the "high flyers" of the nation in 722BC. Her descendants were left behind. The Jews meanwhile were those Israelites who returned from the Babylonian exile to Judea in 539BC.

What is your own History? A father heart looks beyond the History. Jesus saw beyond the fact that this woman was

- A Samaritan,
- A multiple –divorcee.

And worked on an opportunity to release her potential: This woman had another skill “apart from taking other women’s husbands”; she knew how to fetch water

Friend While the world looks at failure, especially when you live in the UK society where “complaining” is a hobby, **God looks at potential and opportunity to redeem:**

Point 3: All is not well at Jacobs well because divinity is meeting humanity A father-heart doesn’t shut people off, because of their imperfections & failures (verse10) but seeks to restore, revive and release potential.

Jesus offers her water: but He had no bucket!

A different kind of water: one that quenches the thirst of the soul

Context of the film

In the Tearfund film we just saw: in Kigazi village where young Stidia lives, the women do the majority of the work, (boys & men spend the day tending cattle), but working with Tearfund’s partner, groups of women have learnt construction and plumbing and are building water tanks.

These women have also led the way in promoting hygiene and building pit latrine toilets as part of our partner’s work.

They are stepping off the gender tight rope by building a new future in which they are taking hold of their own potential- and releasing potential in girls like Stidia.

Point 4: All is not well at Jacob’s well because there was no dignity: for Jesus and for the woman

A father heart is about stooping low enough to restore dignity to those from whom it’s been taken away (Verse 16) Jesus is going to end her shame by dealing with the root of the issue. He’ll give her inner living water so she can hold her head up high.

Tearfund’s work is about giving people their dignity: through Christ, by addressing the root of their issues

Point 5: All is not well at Jacob’s well because true worship had long been lost. It had become a ritual performed on two mountains:

A father-heart returns true worship: in spirit and in truth. People worship best when they feel valued and their dignity is complete

- **Tearfund partners are reporting church growth as people’s hope is returned in areas where Tearfund Church based .**

Please, be a father that brings dignity, and worship, especially in the home.

Please join us to make this a reality in God’s global family: Support our WATSAN campaign, Sign the cards, and sow a seed,

Be Blessed

More reading:

Parents and Children

Eph 6:1 -4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.