

#5 – WEARINESS, WOUNDS, & WONDER (Sarah Yardley)

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

John 4:1-42 (NLT 2015)

Jesus [...] left Judea and returned to Galilee. He [...] came to the Samaritan village of Sychar [...]. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? [...] Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." ... (vv1-15)

1. Jesus was **weary** from his journey when he came to Sychar and sat down beside Jacob's Well. For most of us, the events of the last 18 months have left us with a sense of weariness. The journey hasn't been easy...
 - *What has particularly made you weary over the last few months? What has drained your energy?*
 - *Have you found a 'well' to sit beside – a place of rest? Or are you still searching for a way to find the time to stop and experience 'sabbath' and 'shalom'? What have you been learning?*
2. The Samaritan woman was surprised by the way Jesus treated her. He asked for her help. He gave her dignity and value. He didn't treat her as 'less than'. His kindness gave her the courage to be curious.
 - *What do you find surprising about the conversation between Jesus and the woman at the well?*
 - *Sarah said that Jesus spoke to her deepest need. Looking again at the story, what do you think the woman's deepest need really was?*
 - *In what ways do you think she had been **wounded** in her experience of life? How does Jesus bring healing to her?*
 - *Why do you think the woman said, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!" (v.29) Was she exaggerating? In what sense was that true?*
 - *Where have you experienced the healing love of Jesus in your life? Is it something you can talk about?*
3. The disciples '**wondered**', 'marvelled', were 'surprised', 'astonished', 'shocked', or 'amazed' (depending on your translation) when they returned to find Jesus in conversation with a Samaritan woman. They clearly don't know what to say, so instead they talk about food! (v 31)
 - *What do you think the disciples were thinking when they returned to find Jesus having this conversation?*
 - *Why do you think the disciples seem to have completely missed the point? Do you think they were anxious to protect Jesus (who was clearly breaking numerous cultural taboos)? What else was going on?*
 - *Why did the woman's story have such an impact on the other people from her 'city' (which was probably more of what we would think of as a village)?*
4. In verse 42, the people of Sychar tell the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know he is indeed the Savior of the world." They had heard the woman's story and believed her; then they invited Jesus to stay with them and they heard him for themselves. Only then could they say, "Now we know..."
 - *What does it take for us each to be able to say, "Now I know..."?*