

## “WORSHIP ME”

“The world has shown you that love has to be earned; there are strings attached. It is fickle and faltering, not committed or exclusive. Love has limitations— it will run out. It will not protect you nor defend you when you fail but will expose your faults and leave you feeling inadequate and insecure. Love has conditions. If you don’t meet its expectations, it will abandon you. Love is temporal— its passions will dissipate. And when the pressure becomes too great, it will crumble. Love cannot be trusted because it always fails and can never be restored. But this is *not* the love I have shown you...”

Her thirst intensified as she set out for the well that day. The water jar was empty again—as empty as her heart—and needed to be filled. The thought of the cool crisp water drew her every step, but she knew that it would satisfy her desire only for a moment. The Samaritan woman had spent a lifetime in pursuit of a love that would meet her every need. But like the water she drank, it left her thirsty and empty. And then *He* spoke, Jesus’ words echoing into the chasm, “*If you only knew who I was and what I have to offer... you would never thirst again*” (John 4:10).

Throughout this series, we have examined the misconceptions of God’s love that have left many feeling like the Samaritan woman—unwanted, undesirable, unloved, fearful, doubting, isolated, insecure, and unsatisfied. Constantly bombarded by secular definitions of love, many are struggling to find significance and fulfillment. Without an intimate knowledge of the One God sent to express His love, they are left to attribute the world’s ideas of love to God’s love for them, leaving them to question whether true love is even possible.

Reread the opening paragraph and circle any misconception(s) you have had of God’s love.

Which of these has been your greatest struggle? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you *now* know of God’s love that has changed the way you think? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Revelation

For three years the disciples had followed Christ in faith, but with many doubts, apprehensions, and misconceptions. It wasn’t until Christ was carried up into heaven that the disciples finally began to grasp who Jesus truly was.

Read the account of Christ’s ascension in Luke 24:50-53. What had changed in their hearts and minds? How did they respond to the revelation of Christ’s deity? (vv.52-53) \_\_\_\_\_

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Throughout His tenure, the disciples fell to their knees and worshiped Christ as they experienced outward manifestations of His power,<sup>1</sup> but they became confident in their individual relationships with Him as they experienced His love for them in spite of themselves.

<sup>1</sup> See Matthew 14:33 and Luke 5:8 for examples.

Just moments ago, you circled the misconceptions you have had of God’s love. Turn now to the Table of Contents. Looking at the titles, write the revealed truth of God’s love next to your misconception(s).

How has God loved *you* in spite of yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

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In Lesson 1, we learned of the Samaritan woman. Reread her story in John 4:1-26.

Review how she might have defined love according to her experience. \_\_\_\_\_

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How might the path, the vessel, and the well represent her life? \_\_\_\_\_

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Looking specifically at verses 10, 13-14 and 22, why do you believe the Samaritan woman’s thirst remained? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have *you* ever sought to satisfy your thirst with something other than God? If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

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What state did this leave you in? \_\_\_\_\_

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As a believer, have you sought to do the same? Why? What has your relationship with God failed to fulfill in you? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does seeking worldly satisfaction consequently affect your relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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The nature of your relationship with God is reflected in your thoughts, words, deeds. As long as you seek satisfaction and fulfillment from the world’s contaminated cistern, you will remain wanting—unfulfilled, empty, discontented, and unsatisfied. It is your intentional pursuit of, your intimate knowledge of, and personal experience with Christ, that enables you to grasp the “*width and length and depth and height*” of His love (Ephesians 3:18).

Now describe the nature of your relationship with Him. Is there any correlation between this and your lack of fulfillment? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Back in John 4, verse 13, Jesus stated that whoever drinks of earthly water will “*continually drink*”. In verse 14, the word “*drinks*”, used of Christ’s living water, is consumed “absolutely; with finality; once and for all”. What would Christ satisfy in her (and you) that man could not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Continue reading in John 4, verses 27-42.

It was to the Samaritan woman that Jesus first revealed Himself as the Messiah. But before He disclosed His identity, He brought the most intimate details of her life to the surface.

Why do you believe it was Christ's supernatural knowledge of her failings that captured her heart? (v.29) \_\_\_\_\_

How does this set Christ's love above all other loves? \_\_\_\_\_

Once she saw herself in the light of what He offered, she left her "thirst" behind. What did she proclaim to the people of the city? (John 4:28-29, 39) \_\_\_\_\_

### Respond

Before their conversation ended, Jesus said "those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (v.23). According to verse 14, what results as you come to know the truth of God? \_\_\_\_\_

How do Psalm 107:5-9, 145:14-16, Matthew 5:6, and Luke 6:21, further expound on this truth? \_\_\_\_\_

Return to the context of Christ's ascension.

The disciples knew with certainty that Jesus loved them more than they could have ever imagined. (Review Psalm 103:1-12.) Before He ascended, Jesus gave them their final commission. According to Matthew 28:19-20, how were they to spread the message of the love they had experienced? \_\_\_\_\_

Per Mark 16:19-20, how did they respond to this revelation? \_\_\_\_\_

Like the Samaritan woman, the disciples intimately experienced the extravagant love of God's Son. All went on to boldly declare the revealed truth of Jesus Christ. Their joy, adoration, and thanksgiving for His love would be continually displayed through lives dedicated to Him.

How does Romans 12:1 describe worship? Describe why this is the greatest offering you can give to God in return for His love. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"* (John 15:13).

Turn now to 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. In response to Jesus' great love, how are you to love others? In what ways does love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13, require you to lay down your life? \_\_\_\_\_

*“It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship Him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”* (John 4:24, MSG).

### Because He First Loved Us

“My love for you is a gift. It is steadfast and committed. It is jealous for you. It is measureless and unconditional. My love will cover you. It is always with you—I will never leave you. I will not forsake you. It is inexhaustible. It will bear all things. My love *can* be trusted, and it will *always* win out. My love will pursue you when you run away, and it will pick you up when you fall.

Believe Me when I say that I loved you before you loved Me (1 John 4:19). I have drawn you; I have loved you since time began, and I will love you for eternity (Jeremiah 31:3). In Me, every need will be met, every longing will be satisfied. I will fulfill the desires of your heart (Psalm 145:19). I gave My son as the ultimate expression of My love for you (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-5). *Know Him*, abide with Him (1 John 4:16), and you will *know* you are wanted, needed, and loved as you are.”

In closing, read 1 John 4:9-11, 17-18. Then, record verse 19.

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