



Devotions for October 13-19, 2024

## "Deep Relationships & Kingdom Work"

Close Message Series, Week 2

### Reflection: A Woman at the Well—The Invitation to a Close Relationship

Jesus offers a personal revelation, inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him.

**Scripture: John 4:25-26—"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.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'"**

- **Why is it significant that Jesus revealed Himself** as the Messiah to this Samaritan woman? How does this show His desire for closeness with all people?
- **Can you recall a time when Jesus invited you** into a deeper relationship with Him through a special moment, Scripture, an experience, or the words of a friend?
- **Often, we must intentionally slow down** to be with God, blocking out the noise to hear His invitation. How can you create space this week to listen for Jesus in your life?
- **Are there barriers (like busyness, fear, or shame) between you and Jesus?** What emotional or relational barriers might be hindering you from drawing close to Him?

### Reflection: Come & See—Sharing the Testimony

Testimony is an overflow of experiencing closeness with Christ.

**Scripture: John 4:28-29—"So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?'"**

- **Why do you think the woman was eager to share** her encounter with Jesus? How did her testimony impact the people in her town?
- **Can you remember a time when someone shared their journey** with Jesus and encouraged you? How did it help you on your path?
- **How does encountering Jesus compel you** to share your faith with others? What might be holding you back?
- **How might fear of judgment or rejection stop you** from being open about your spiritual journey? How can love help you overcome this fear?

# Reflection: The Harvest—Doing Kingdom Work

True spiritual fulfillment comes from joining God in His work, actively aligning our thoughts and actions with His purposes. When we serve and work alongside others to bless God and others, it draws us closer to Him in ways we might not experience otherwise—serving in community brings us into deeper connection with God.

**Scripture: John 4:34 – "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."**

- **As you reflect on your friendships**, do you find yourself lacking deep, meaningful connections? One of the best ways to build lifelong friendships is by working alongside others for a common good. Are there any opportunities in your community where you can join others already serving and work alongside them?
- **We often feel discouraged when we don't see immediate growth in others.** But our role is to plant seeds of life, trusting God to work beneath the surface. Who can you pray for this week, trusting that God is at work even when you can't see it?
- **Consider the "fields" in your life—whether family, workplace, or community.** What opportunities do you see for a spiritual harvest?
- **In emotionally healthy discipleship, we learn to embrace both limits and potential.** Are you in a season of sowing or reaping, and how can you embrace it with joy?

# Reflection: We Have Heard for Ourselves—Personal Faith

Moving from secondhand faith to a deeply rooted, personal faith

**Scripture: John 4:42—"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."**

- **What was the initial source of the Samaritans' belief?** What led them to develop their own faith in Christ?
- **Why is it essential to move from hearing** about Jesus through others to experiencing Him personally?
- **Reflect on your spiritual journey.** What has helped you shift from hearing about Jesus to experiencing Him for yourself?
- **How do you actively experience Jesus personally?** What practices or rhythms help? Are they alive and refreshing, or have they grown stale? Consider trying new practices this week, like prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, breath prayers, solitude, or Sabbath.

## Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Thank You for inviting us into a deeper relationship with You. Help us to slow down, hear Your voice, and remove anything that keeps us distant. Guide us to join You in Your work, and help us experience closeness to You through serving others. Refresh our hearts as we seek You each day. –Amen.*